NMI visitor arrivals up 4 pct in calendar year 2015. » PAGE 2

Tourist injured during robbery at Tank Beach. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 15

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Effects of economic growth questioned

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eyeing an agenda of gradual economic growth, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday the administration is looking at gathering statistics for the peak number of hotels to accommodate future development and halt other development whose impact may be questionable, as the Commonwealth also looks to grapple with the ill-effects of the continuing contract worker shortage due to permit delays amidst new economic development in play.

Torres

Torres told reporters he would be heading to Washington, D.C.—for meetings with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs—bringing with the data on the "ripple effect" and dollar figures of the recent delay of about 2,800 contract worker permit renewals.

"We just experienced the disaster of Soudelor…and now we are hit with an additional labor issues," said Torres. "We are getting hit in both ways—closure" of businesses and "preventing us from growth.

"How important our contract workers are," and "how important that they are to infrastructure, housholds, and farmers" are some of points of his message he will stress with federal counterparts.

Torres also met with Honest Profit

See EFFECTS on Page 4

GOING DOWN

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Fuel prices went down once again by at least $0.10 yesterday. Gas prices have been in a downward trend since the latter part of last year.

See story on Page 3

US Navy letter hints at legal tussle for Tinian port rights

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Department of Defense lawyer has signaled the military's position on planned commercial development at the Tinian port, hinting in a letter to the Commonwealth Ports Authority of a potential clash in military use rights with developments like a multimillion dollar casino resort currently beginning construction on the Tinian wharf.

In a letter this month to Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel Robert Torres, Department of the Navy lawyer John V.R. Aguon said DoD has "become aware" of CPA's leasing of real property on the island of Tinian to various entities. He reminds CPA that the United States has certain rights contained in longstanding agreements between the CNMI and Defense—such as a 1983 lease and its amendments—that "authorize and guarantee DoD various military uses at the Tinian port and airport."

"We desire to ensure these DoD rights are protected," Aguon said.

Saipan Tribune emailed top Navy officials yesterday to clarify the "specific extent" of the rights that DoD is claiming to the port, and why they have chosen to raise the issue now, but a Navy spokesperson said a response would be given today.

Aguon's letter—copies of which

See NAVY on Page 4

Ogumoro takes witness stand

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro yesterday took the witness stand in Superior Court in which he denied directing a police officer to arrest two Office of the Public Auditor investigators if they would serve penal summons to then-Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

» Denies ordering arrest of 2 OPA investigators, stopping FBI agent

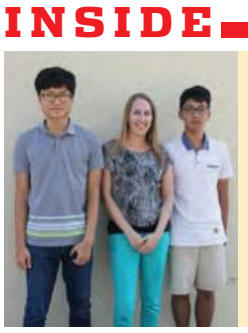
After Ogumoro's testimony, attorney Edward C. Arriola, counsel for Ogumoro, did not call any witness and informed the court that the defense rests.

Special prosecutor George Hasselback, counsel for the government, called back police detective Elias Q. Saralu as a rebuttal witness.

The trial of Ogumoro will resume today, Friday at 8:30am, with jury instructions and closing arguments. The defendant is facing 11 charges

See OGUMORO on Page 4

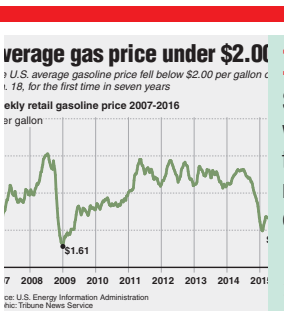
INSIDE



LOCAL

The newly established Math Club at the Saipan International School helped 11th graders Jaehoon Jang and Myung Jae Cho in earning spots on the CNMI MathCourt team.

» PAGE 10


verage gas price under $2.0
U.S. average gasoline price fell below $2.00 per gallon
18, for the first time in seven years
ekly retail gasoline price 2007-2016
er gallon
$1.61
7 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
ce: U.S. Energy Information Administration
hic: Tribune News Service

BUSINESS

Stocks are having their worst start to a year in history in part because of a rapid plunge in the price of oil.

» PAGE 20

39 DAYS
for CDMA "Non SIM" subscribers to get a FREE Phone and Keep Your Number.
IT&E
Life In Motion

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

NMI visitor arrivals up 4 pct in calendar year 2015

»Arrivals down 8 pct in December 2015

Visitors arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands rose 4 percent in calendar year 2015 compared to the previous year, although December 2015 visitor arrivals to the NMI dipped 8 percent compared to December 2014.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 41,128 visitors in December 2015, compared to 44,910 visitors received in December 2014.

Arrivals from China continued their steady growth, rising 11 percent compared to December 2014 to reach 14,309 visitors. With new flights from China being launched by Dynamic Airways at the beginning of January, as well as a new flight from Hangzhou to Saipan operated by Century Tours, continued rapid growth from the China market is projected for the coming year as the MVA's promotions penetrate deeper into secondary markets of China which until now have been largely untapped.

Arrivals from Korea dipped 9 percent in December to 17,721 visitors but maintained Korea's position as the NMI's No. 1 source of visitors. This did, however, mark the first decrease in arrivals from the Korean market since December 2014, other than the month of Super Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015. The decrease is attributed to the fact that Asiana Airlines suspended its morning flight in June 2015 and also cut its charter flight in February 2015; both flights were operating in December 2014.

Arrivals from Japan fell 36 percent to 6,374 visitors as the NMI continued to feel the effect of Delta Air Lines cutting its Narita to Saipan night flight in October, a move that dropped airlift from the Japan market to just one daily flight. The total air seat supply from Japan was just 6,799 seats in December, including six Asiana charter flights from Narita and another charter from Kansai/Osaka. With 6,231 visitors, this means that almost every available seat from Japan was full throughout the month of December, making it very difficult for Japan travel agents to boost sales to the NMI without the necessary flights available. The MVA is now launching a major incentive campaign with Delta Air Lines and all top Japan travel agents to sustain these extremely high load factors on the Narita flight into Japan's low season and secure the re-instatement of the Narita night flight this year.

Source markets economic highlights

Japan`s economic growth for the third quarter of 2015 has been revised from an annualized fall of 0.8 percent to an annualized rise of 1 percent, erasing the technical "recession" declared in November. The revision changes the whole picture of the Japanese economy, erasing any possibility of a downward spiral. As of Dec. 10, 2015, the yen slightly grew in value against both the US dollar (121.50 yen).

The Korean government announced the economy would grow 3.1 percent this year, largely buoyed by an increase in domestic consumption. The South Korean won/dollar exchange rate rose 17.93 won over the past month to close at 1,174.67 won.

The International Monetary Fund predicts further slowing in growth in China will result in a reduced GDP of 6.3 percent in 2016. The IMF anticipates the final full-year figure for 2015 to show a growth rate of 6.8%. China's economy grew by 7.3 percent in 2014. China Tourism Academy reported the growth rate for the country's outbound travel volume is expected to reach 16 percent this year, making China the world's largest outbound travel market for the third year running. The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened by 24 basis points to 6.4755 against the U.S. dollar, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System. ***(MVA)***

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN
FRIDAY
$12 Choice of 6 Beers
The Ultimate Beer Bucket
Choose from: Heineken, Miller Lite, San Miguel, Miller Draft, Dos XX Lager, Dos XX Amber
SATURDAY
$15 Choice of 5 Beers
Good Friends @ "BUD" Night
Choices of Budweiser or Budlight beer
SUNDAY
$15 Choice of 6 Cans Beer
"BUD FAMILY"
(BUnDing time at 12:00pm to 10:00pm)
Choices of Budweiser of Budlight beer
Come and listen to
MIKE BLUE
sing R&B
FREE appetizer for every bucket purchased
1 FREE Party Platter appetizer for every 3 beer buckets purchased
5:00pm to 10:00pm
OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
WiFi
www.facebook/clubcsaipan

Occupancy rate at 88 pct in December 2015

»2015 sets new record for occupancy rates

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 88.31 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for December 2015, a 3-percent increase compared to December 2014. At the same time, occupancy rates for calendar year 2015 ended at 87.20 percent, beating the record of 85.57 percent in 1997 before the Asian economic crisis.

"It's a great feeling to report that occupancy rates among our membership has set a new record in 2015," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "As partners of the CNMI government and the local community, it's been difficult journey, but we can see that working together pays off."

Room rates were $142.89 during the month, compared to $139.73 last December.

"We'd like to continue the upward trend in the CNMI economic recovery, but this will require strategic planning," said Cavanagh. "Stop diverting funds from the hotel occupancy tax away from marketing and destination enhancement by the Marianas Visitors Authority, and allow long-time public lease hotel owners to stay in business by negotiating new leases. The formula obviously works, so let's not lose focus."

The average room rate in 2015 was $132.53, compared to $125.95 in 2014.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(HANMI)***

Registration open for JKPL intermediate ukulele class

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has opened the registration period for their intermediate ukulele class.

Like their summer program, ukulele classes will be taught by Larry Lee, according to JKPL outreach services coordinator Celina C. Foreman said.

Classes will be every Tuesday beginning Jan. 26 and will be held from 4pm to 5pm at the JKPL-Children of our Homeland Library.

"Students planning on enrolling in the Intermediate Ukulele class must pass the beginner ukulele class," Foreman said.

Class is open for members of the public aged 8 years old and above. They will accommodate a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 40 students and will be based on a "first come, first paid."

The deadline to register is Feb. 1.

The class, which will have a total of eight hours and will run on eight weeks, is worth $50.

Prospective students must provide their own instrument and a folder to hold music sheets. Parents or guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating minor children. Those who wish to join must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For more information, visit Joeten-Kiyu Public Library or call 235-7316 or 7322. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

Tourist injured during robbery at Tank Beach

A 62-year-old female tourist was injured when a robber grabbed her purse while she and her family were sightseeing at Tank Beach in Kagman on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim, a Chinese, was treated at the scene by responding medics for minor injuries to the left hand and left knee. She refused to be transported to the hospital.

Stolen from the victim was a purse that contained 150 yuan, $400 cash, a red HTC cellular phone, and a hotel room key.

According to Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong, the suspect was described as a male, no shirt on at that time, dark skinned, about 5'2" to 5'4" tall, and with dark shoulder length hair.

Tarkong said the suspect fled aboard a car driven by an unknown driver.

The victim remembered either 631 or 731 as the last three digits of the suspects' get-away vehicle.

Tarkong said police responded to a reported robbery at Tank Beach at 3:38pm.

Police investigation showed that the victim and her family went to Tank Beach for sightseeing at 2:30pm.

As the victim was walking back to their car rental, she noticed a white car parked next to their vehicle.

The suspect exited the right rear passenger door of the white car and grabbed the victim's purse. During the struggle, the victim fell to the ground.

The suspect dragged the victim, who was still clinging to her purse. As a result, she was injured on the left knee and left hand.

The suspect went back inside the white car, which then sped off.

Tarkong said the Crime Stoppers and the Department of Public Safety are seeking the public's help for information about the suspects.

"Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest," said Tarkong as he urged anyone having information about this robbery to call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Last year, at least seven rental cars belonging to QQ Car Rental were reportedly burglarized at Tank Beach. No one was arrested yet from any of those incidents. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Oil prices go down again

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oil prices have gone down once again on Saipan.

Mobil Oil Marianas decreased their prices by $0.10 per gallon.

From the previous, $3.689 per gallon, Mobil now sells their regular gasoline at $3.589. Their premium gasoline, Super, is at $3.909 down from $4.009 per gallon.

For diesel, Mobil sells now at $3.669 per gallon from the previous $3.769.

Mobil implemented the price decrease yesterday at around 1pm.

For Shell Marianas, a 10-cent decrease was also implemented for their regular gasoline which is also now at $3.589.

Their premium gas, V-power, it is now at $3.719 per gallon from the previous $3.819.

Their diesel, however, was reduced by 15 cents lowering it from $3.819 to $3.669, matching Mobil's price.

Shell decreased their prices around 3:40pm.

Mobil customer Chris Meyers, a resident of Gualo Rai said he didn't notice the 10-cent decrease.

"I always get premium so I don't usually mind the prices anymore because it's always high," Meyers.

However, he said at least there is some kind of saving with the prices going down today.

Jayson Camacho said he also didn't notice the prices going down but echoed the same sentiment.

"It's good that the gas prices are going down," Camacho said, "It's some savings."

CHUNG NAM CORP.
SHAMPOO CLEANING:
CARPET/SOFA/CAR/OTHERS
■ CURTAIN ■ UPHOLESTRY SHOP
■ CARPET ■ VERTICAL BLIND
Tel: (670) 234-3929 • Cell: (670) 483-1270

i'm lovin' it
Mushroom Swiss Quarter Pounder®
Extra Value Meal®
Coca-Cola
Available for a limited time only.
STORE HOURS: Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

HIMAWARI
DELI, BAKERY & STORE
(JAPANESE FOOD, GROCERY & FURNITURE)
New Arrival Sale!
January 22 & 23, 2016 (Friday & Saturday)
For every $20.00 worth of purchase exclusive from the store only (Restaurant not included).
(cigarette, telephone card and purchase of gift certificates are not included)
You will receive $2.00 worth of Gift Certificate and a Raffle Ticket
For the raffle you will be able to win special Gift Prizes!
Every ticket wins.
Must be present to win.
Raffle Draw will be on Jan. 24, 2016 (Sun.)

For $1.70/each
2,000 kind of items just arrived from Japan
Kitchen wares, plastic wares, tools, dishes, office supplies, accessories and many more.
Tel. 233-1530 / 1531 • Fax 233-1532

EFFECTS

From Page 1

Group—a hotel investor—yesterday. Torres said they requested an additional 15-year lease on top of the 25 years on their current lease they already have but that the administration was still reviewing with the Attorney General's Office on this request.

"The good thing is—if we have an additional 15 years—it gives the company the tool to get additional funding or stronger business partners knowing that their lease is 40 years," Torres said. "The downfall of it is if the company doesn't go through…and that's where it's important to foresee the things that we have experienced in the past [with other stalled investors] moving forward."

Torres noted a current government moratorium on ATV vehicles operator applications, as impact of the current over 10 operators on island has raised questions about the ability of island's roads to handle the activity.

"If we have 20 ATV companies, do you think it's good for the CNMI?" Torres said. "Instead of approving everything, we got to look at the" economic, social and environmental impact. "We want the right investment and the timing of those investments—those are things right now that are critical for us to look into," he said.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan said controlled and planned development is what they've been asking from the government. He described this as the idea of looking at development in terms of backtracking and fitting out where the CNMI is in terms of its worker pool and determining how many rooms the CNMI can open up with that worker pool; getting contractors to move into the project-oriented H-visas, and getting professional level CWs into other visas to see what the real CW needs are, for example.

"We are asking for a focused group in government to take a look at what the impact of growing up to 4,000 rooms with one developer—Best Sunshine Ltd.—and the advent of adding another couple thousand with other proposals on Saipan," he said. "We are going to probably need somewhere close to 10, to 12, to 15 thousand workers. " Realistically, these numbers would not come from the U.S mainland or Micronesia, but typically, Asian countries where workers are readily available and "willing to come because of better wages."

"We need to have the government focus in on planned development and structured and controlled development because this is going to get out of hand," he said. "…Investors here going to basically up and leave because they aren't able to get workers.

Sablan urged that federal and local government agencies form a working group to address the issue, and urged contractors to move to the H-visa program versus the contract worker program as there are no caps to these worker levels.

Since H-visas are set for specific projects, specific timelines, Sablan said, "once that's done, they are out, and we move on to the next project. And that's just going to be the fact of life of the situation here."

Sablan estimates the impact of the shortage of CW workers "in the millions" of dollars in productivity.

"This is a huge impact to our economy and this should have never happened. It's unfortunate. We saw this coming and we called people's offices and we talked to them about this and didn't see to the light of day," he said. "It could have been headed off earlier but it wasn't and it's unfortunate."

Bait and switch

Concerned citizen Glen Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* that it seemed odd that the same officials that "rammed a $7-billion casino development down our throats just months ago" would now subscribe to a limited slow and steady growth plan. "There was nothing slow or gradual about that whole process," he said. "It seems that immediate, fast and improperly planned development was behind the push to get an exclusive casino license handed to a specific bidder."

He said that now that they have secured that license an alteration to what was promised to what was presented, which appears to be a "clear case of bait and switch.

"The voice of the people was overturned with a promise of a casino being included in a $7-billion integrated resort. That promise was the bait that pushed out anything competitive bidders and granted them a sole license. The switch has been altering that to a casino in a mall and now a casino in a mid-sized hotel. The switch had also been the amendment to allow for the ability to place casino tables and machines in any of the casino license holder's facilities, apartments, stores, motels, hotels, etc. Potentially leading to a casino gambling sprawl across all of Saipan," Hunter said in an email.

"The only thing slow about this whole process has been transparency," he added.

Hunter believes that the administration allowed for a new industry, which will undoubtedly have negative impacts to our environment, culture, infrastructure, and all way of life "but failed to properly tax it to offset those new costs."

"There is nothing slow about the rise we are witnessing in the housing market and basic commodities," he said. "As for the workforce there is nothing slow about a request for thousands of new CW permits. It is no doubt that USCIS had stalled renewals. For the past few years a trend toward reducing CWs had been demanded by law. Yet just this year the new industry has placed new applications and is lobbying for expanding the cap that should be reduced."

Hunter said if the administration wants to control development and mitigate impacts "they need only to properly tax the new industry." "The casino is the only one operating free of gross gaming revenue taxes, casino table play taxes, all machine taxes, and casino winning taxes. It is also the only casino that does not adequately reveal revenue figures and breakdowns. It also runs entirely on a cash basis and in-house credit system. These all sets up a perfect environment for improperly regulated transactions.

"If this administration wants steady, gradual economic growth, they need only to properly tax the new casino industry and properly regulate it. If not the burden will inevitably fall on us tax payers. We are already feeling the impacts at the stores and in rental properties. Talks of floating a pension obligation bond would also further strain us taxpayers," he said.

Given a chance to clarify the need for casino taxes, Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said, "the misguided belief by Hunter that this industry does not pay business tax is a fallacy and simply incorrect."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OGUMORO

From Page 1

for his alleged role in shielding Buckingham from being served with penal summons.

In his testimony, Ogumoro said that, on Aug. 3 and 4, 2012, he was the acting commissioner of DPS.

The defendant denied he organized a "protective detail service" for Buckingham on Aug. 3 and 4, 2012. He also denied he called any officer from the Commonwealth Ports Authority on that period.

Ogumoro testified that the first time he heard about penal summons issued against Buckingham was when then-KSPN News reporter Tina Sablan asked him about the summons at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport in the early morning of Aug. 4, 2012.

Ogumoro also testified that he heard the penal summons at the VIP lounge of the airport when the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents came to serve it to Buckingham.

As to Hasselback's question as to when he actually first learned about the penal summons, Ogumoro explained that when Tina Sablan asked about the summons, it was hearsay because he did not see it.

Ogumoro said he first saw the summons when FBI special agent Haejun Park showed it to him at the VIP lounge area.

The defendant testified that the only reason for escorting Buckingham to the airport was to escort "an old, sick man" and to keep the news media away.

Ogumoro denied that he threatened to arrest OPA investigators who wanted to serve summons to Buckingham.

Officer Juan Mendiola, then-shift supervisor, testified on Wednesday that Ogumoro told him to tell OPA investigators to back off from serving summons to Buckingham or they would be arrested.

"I believe he [Mendiola] did not hear me clearly," Ogumoro said.

On Arriola's question why he stopped FBI special agent Park at the VIP lounge, Ogumoro replied that he did not stop agent Park.

Hasselback asked Ogumoro if he is familiar with the meaning of an "executive order."

Ogumoro replied, "what executive order?"

Hasselback did not ask further questions.

Park testified on Wednesday that Ogumoro, who walked toward him and another FBI special agent when they entered the VIP lounge, told him that he was under an executive order to escort Buckingham and his wife to the plane.

Hasselback then called detective Saralu as rebuttal witness.

Saralu said he and Ogumoro had a phone conversation at about 8:30pm to 9pm on Aug. 3, 2012.

Saralu said during their conversation, he mentioned to Ogumoro about the penal summons for Buckingham because Ogumoro asked why he was investigating police officer Alex Sakisat.

Saralu said he told Ogumoro he was not investigating Sakisat but it was Police Officer Peter Camacho who asked what was Sakisat doing at Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, where Buckingham was staying.

Saralu said Ogumoro asked who is Peter Camacho.

Saralu said he told Ogumoro that Camacho was trying to serve summons to Buckingham.

Saralu said he is sure that Camacho was telling him about summons for Buckingham.

Saralu said he mentioned to Ogumoro that OPA investigators were trying to serve summons to Buckingham.

On Wednesday, Mendiola testified that Ogumoro told him to pull out the officers assisting OPA investigators and that if not, OPA investigators would be arrested.

Police officers were trying to assist in serving the summons to Buckingham after then-OPA investigator Juanette David-Atalig requested assistance from her police officer brother.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NAVY

From Page 1

were obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday—notes that certain portions of the port are currently leased to Bridge Investment Group—an investor building a reported $120-million casino resort on the port. And that in the future," other portions of the Tinian port may be physically or legally encumbered by either Bridge or other private entities."

"We are concerned that these developments may compromise DoD's various rights," Aguon said. "We would like to work with CPA to identify existing conflicts, if any, between the lease to Bridge or other entities and the agreements with United States and how to resolve them.

"We would like to work together to ensure DoD's rights are protected moving forward," he added.

"In the case of development of Tinian," said Sen. Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian) yesterday, "it's unfortunate that this issue had to come to form at this juncture, knowing that the existing developer is committed and we hope that no further problems will arise as a result of this particularly issue.

"BIG has been around for the longest time. And they are very persistent with their committeeman to develop Tinian as a destination site for tourist site for tourism," he said.

CPA executive director Maryann Lizama declined to comment yesterday, saying the Navy letter was under legal review.

For their part, Bridge Investment Group executive director Phillip Mendiola-Long said they stand by their lease agreement with CPA. "… There are absolutely no conflicts with the U.S. military's potential use of Tinian's port," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Mendiola-Long said their project is a U.S. "EB-5" investor-funded project, which means that "our U.S. company is receiving a low interest loan from foreign investors who are vetted by" the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Services and the U.S. State Department.

The EB-5 program requires hiring U.S. workers and that their project—which is currently under construction—has an over 90 percent U.S. citizen employment rate."

"I am not aware of any other major projects in the CNMI that are anywhere near us with regard to commitment to hiring local or U.S. citizens," he added.

The Department of Defense's notice of concern—amidst the ongoing commercial development and the larger backdrop of Defense's plans to conduct large-scale live-fire training on the island—has raised some questions.

"You have Phillip [Mendiola-] Long who came out vocally against the military buildup and now all of a sudden the military's coming in and asking for the lease rights?" said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan.

The military is "in that prerogative, that is a given," he added. "Anytime that the DoD wants to commandeer the ports they can during wartime" but civil time "they are really going to call this out? I do think it's poor timing for the military to come out in this timeline and we've been talking about this for years. It's no secret that we've been trying to get a project on the wharf there."

Sablan believes the military uses should not compromise the investment. "I don't think the investment impacts the military whatsoever. The main port facility is not impacted by this development. They will have complete access to the entry and exit of the port. What the military needs to do is come in and fix the port. Because the port is falling a part."

Sablan said the idea that the military will use the port down the line is "farfetched if we don't fix the breakwater and don't have safe navigation for the military vessels that do come into the wharf."

"There are looking at the wrong issue. Bridge [Investment Group] has nothing to do with the ability of the military to utilize the port. The military has everything to with us trying to fix the port because it was left in tatters, and because Tinian is a military ground—And with three fourths of the island [leased to them], I would think that the military should spend its time fixing the assets so that they will have access to wharfs, the airports anytime they need to."

Manibusan tells United, Cape Air to improve services

Attorney General Edward Manibusan met with several key executives from United Airlines and Cape Air to discuss service issues the people of the Commonwealth have encountered since United's merger with Continental.

The attorney general stated the meeting centered on the frequent delays and cancellations of flights travelers face when flying between Saipan and Guam.

"I made clear to them the growing frustration of the traveling public and impact such delays had on CNMI business and the local economy," Manibusan added.

The attorney general noted that he was pleased overall with the meeting.

"The officials listened to what I had to say about the erosion of consumer confidence in United and Cape Air and that they must work to improve services and regain public confidence," said Manibusan.

Brad Rich, senior vice president of United Express, reported at the meeting that United is working to address this issue by acquiring another aircraft, which they expect to have by the end of the year.

Additionally, visiting executives stated that they try to address all consumer complaints, but pointed out that they could not address complaints of which they are not aware of.

"I encourage consumers to submit complaints directly to United Airlines. While I continue the dialogue with United to address consumer issues, direct complains may result in a faster response time for specific complaints," said Manibusan.

Consumers should visit United's webpage (http://www.united.com/web/en-US/content/Contact/default.aspx) to submit complaints and/or email complaints to cnmiconsumercounsel@gmail.com. ***(Office of the Attorney General)***

CUC, NMTI to start devt program in Feb.

Training for new and current Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power generation staff is targeted to start on February.

"We agreed that our target will be right around February. I think Feb. 15 is the date that we want to implement the development program," CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho told the board in a meeting yesterday.

Camacho said the power generation staff development program with the Northern Marianas Technical Institute is a CNMI Department of Labor-recognized course.

About 30 participants are expected to undergo the training.

Board vice chair Eric San Nicolas made clear if workers from the islands of Tinian and Rota are being included in the program, to which Camacho said yes.

Board chair Adelina Roberto also clarified how the participants are being selected.

"We have empowered the division manager because the expectation also is that he has communicated with the supervisors and there's a consensus as to who it is. It's not just one person who's deciding. It's the same with the resident directors," Camacho replied.

However, a list for the participants isn't finalized yet.

"[The participants] are to be determined and I want to get recommendations from the division managers because at the end of the day they will be responsible for that particular sections and not only that they are experts in that particular area. They need to communicate with their supervisors," Camacho added in an interview.

Board member Diego Songao also stated that the training will be some kind of an investment and that it should be ensured that those who will be part of it will stay with the company for some years.

"We have to make sure that this investment is good for the next few years and not somebody who will just retire next year," Songao said.

Camacho said there are criteria that they will follow in choosing the participants for the program.

He added that there will be other programs as well as they develop their workforce.

"This isn't a one-course six-month program. There will be additional programs on top of this as we prepare to continue to develop our workforce," Camacho said. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

WORLD MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$18.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
1:00PM – 12:00AM
Monday – Sunday
For more information, please
Call 234-1504 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten Commercial Building or across World Resort

FREE PHONE
and KEEP YOUR NUMBER
New Kagman Market this Saturday – January 23 (10AM – 4PM)
First Prize
$100
Worth of Prepaid Load
Second Prize
$75
Worth of Prepaid Load
Third Prize
$50
Worth of Prepaid Load
Every customer that migrates their CDMA prepaid or postpaid number to HSPA+ will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win FREE load!
IT&E
Life In Motion
682-4ITE / ite.net *Terms and conditions apply.

Charter flights will help attract tourists to Rota, Tinian

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman said having charter flights to Rota and Tinian is one of the possible solutions to boost tourist arrivals in both islands.

Bateman, speaking during the MVA's special board meeting in their San Jose office yesterday, said having special charter flights would further develop the Korean market and solve the transportation issue.

MVA wants to further promote Rota and Tinian especially to Korean tourists but issues on transportation and accommodation, raised by the Korean Marianas Tourism Council, need to be settled first.

The MVA board said that it is about time to further promote Rota and Tinian as other tourist destinations in the Commonwealth.

"We're trying to figure out solutions. One way is to have special charter flights, we could talk to Star Marianas but it would mean several flights since they only have small planes. We support charter flights direct to Rota or Tinian, the real key is getting there," said Bateman.

»MVA also hikes advertising budget for Korea to $2.4M

MVA has also increased the recommended budget of promoting the CNMI to the Korean market from $2.2 million to $2.4 million. They would be submitting a $7.7-million total budget for the new fiscal year where part of their plan is to open offices in the cities of Tokyo in Japan, Beijing and Shanghai in China, and Seoul in Korea.

Japan has the highest allotment with $2.5 million in the recommended budget, while $2 million is reserved for China. Attracting the Russian and Taiwanese market would have $400,000 each.

"This will be our recommended budget for the next fiscal year, for the next contract that would expire in September. We will be preparing the [request for proposal] for the MVA's offices in the said countries," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

Tenorio also raised during the meeting that they want to look into how much Palau, Guam, and Hawaii are spending in their tourism promotions.

"We still need to get information on other markets. Sample their population, but it would take a while to get the results. We will have a research committee for this," added Tenorio.

CHC: HPV main cause of cervical cancers

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by human papillomavirus or HPV, a common virus that can be passed from one person to another during sex. There are many types of HPV. Some HPV types can cause changes on a woman's cervix that can lead to cervical cancer over time, while other types can cause genital or skin warts.

HPV is so common that most people get it at some time in their lives. HPV usually causes no symptoms so you can't tell that you have it. For most women, HPV will go away on its own; however, if it does not, there is a chance that over time it may cause cervical cancer.

Other things that can increase your risk of cervical cancer include smoking, having HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or another condition that makes it hard for your body to fight off health problems, having given birth to three or more children, and having several sexual partners.

You can reduce your risk of cervical cancer. If you use tobacco, quit now. You can call 323-QUIT (7848) for tobacco cessation classes and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) that are available at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help you quit that habit. Using condoms and getting a Pap test regularly can also help to reduce your risk of cervical cancer. Condoms are available at no cost through the Family Planning Program and the HIV/STD Prevention Program. The above services are made available with federal grants and local funds under CHCC's Division of Public Health's Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Bureau, Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Communicable Disease Bureau. To find out more on how you can avail of these services, please call 236-8703 or 236-8727.

Information on this page is provided byhttp://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/basic_info/risk_factors.htm, http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseaases-conditions/cervical-cancer/basics/risk-factors/con-20030522, the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and the Breast and Cervical Screening Program. ***(PR)***

DEQ assign green flag on Managaha sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has assigned green flags on sampled beaches on Managaha for the week of Jan. 21. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and docks this week as part of its regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. Marine Water Quality reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID+52. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive notifications of the weekly Marine Water Quality reports. To do so, please send an email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. ***(DEQ)***

LEGEND
REALTY

Exclusive Real Estate Agent for
Best Sunshine International
and Representing Multiple Investors
throughout Asia

SEARCHING FOR:
Hillside property or
View property or
Beach front property or
Beach Road property or
Rural property

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 202
670-484-5821
legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com

INFORMATION REQUIRED:
Map location
Total Area
Building area (if with existing building)
Title information
Asking price

The CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
PRESENTS
A Cervical Cancer Health Forum
Wednesday, January 27, 2016 | 5:00PM - 8:00PM | Pacific Islands Club, Saipan
SEATS ARE LIMITED. KINDLY RSVP AT 236-8727/8 BY JANUARY 25, 2016
For more information in the CNMI,
please contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at (670) 236-8727/8
This Ad was brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non
Communicable Disease Bureau with 100% federal funding from the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

WEEKEND SPECIAL

PRICES EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 22-24, 2016

Acme Arcadia Recliner

Buy one for **$289**

Two for only **$450**

Artois Chaise

CM-CE2680WT

$399

Primo International

3pc Sofa Set (Includes 5 Full Reclining Seats)

$1,495

30in. - **$29**

Narrow – **$59**

4ft - **$49**

5ft - **$59**

6ft - **$69**

Outdoor Folding Tables

General Electric

16 CU. FT. Refrigerator

GTE16DTHWW

$849

ENERGY STAR

Hot Point

15 CU. FT. Refrigerator

HPS158THRWW

$749

Amana

Oven Range

ACR3130BAW

$499

General Electric

3.6 CU. FT. GTW180SCJWW

Non-Digital, Manual Timer Washer

$649

Primo Mattress & Base with Legs

(Metal Frame Not Needed)

Twin **$269** Full **$369** Queen **$449**

Town House

AN AFFILIATE OF JONES & GUERRERO CO., INC.

FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM • MONDAY - CLOSED

ALL ITEMS ARE BOX PRICE. ASSEMBLY NOT INCLUDED.

MORE ITEMS ON SALE, VISIT US NOW!

Job fair gives Kensington larger pool of candidates

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kensington Hotel Saipan Human Resources manager Vivian Deleon Guerrero said holding a two-day job fair at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center helped officials of the E-Land Group-owned facility to have a larger pool of candidates.

JON PEREZ
Kensington Hotel Saipan provided free water and snacks to all applicants who attended their two-day job fair at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

Kensington is one of E-Land's hotel chains that would open its Saipan branch within the year and that's why Deleon Guerrero said they need more than 300 employees that would fill the culinary, food and beverage operations, sales and marketing, front office, recreations, finance, human resources, housekeeping, and engineering departments.

"We have 203 applicants [Wednesday] and we're reaching close to 200 [Thursday] with still a few more hours left. We met our target of getting more than 300 applicants so turnout was really good," said Deleon Guerrero.

She added that a lot of the applicants qualified for a second interview, the next step of the process of getting hired, and it was a huge plus in their job pool search.

"Meeting the applicants and getting the chance to talk to them face to face helped us in assessing their personality and desire to work in the hospitality industry. It showed how prepared they are and it's good to know how they react to our questions," Deleon Guerrero said.

She said that most of the applicants are fresh graduates from Latte Training Academy, Inc., which sent qualified residents who finished being certified in the hotel and hospitality industry.

"Overall it was a mixed turnout. It was a good group of people and some stood out. Now we have to see if they meet the requirements in the job that they are applying. We will also do background checks with the references they submitted," said Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero added that background checks would determine if the contents of the applicant's resume are true. "Once hired they would undergo drug testing, which is standard policy. And we'll also require them to submit a police report to see their background."

She said all interviews were at the department manager-level. "It was the department managers who conducted the interviews and they've asked a lot of questions. Many are consistent with their answers that fit the jobs that we are looking for."

E-Land Group Human Resources and Customer Service director Ginger Choi helped Kensington officials in conducting the interviews.

E-Land Group aims to expand further its business where they plan to have more than 150 hotels and resorts with 18,000 rooms around the world operational by 2020 to become of the world's top 10 hotels.

CLUB 88
THE
BEST LITTLE GAMING CLUBS
IN SAIPAN
BIG JACKPOTS more often!
The LARGEST FLOORWIDE JACKPOT in Saipan!
With over $280,000 won since July 2015!
Jackpots won since July 2015 by Lucky 88 Players.
Earth Jackpot – with over $180,530 won
Fire Jackpot – with over $47,055 won
Metal Jackpot –
$8,315.24 (7/26/15)
$8,606.50 (9/10/15)
$8,840.52 (10/25/15)
$8,567.51 (11/22/15)
$8,016.38 (11/23/15)
$8,153.22 (12/2/15)
$8,634.65 (1/7/16)
You could be the next
BIG WINNER!
OPEN: SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 12PM TO 4AM, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 24 HOURS
Located at Ocean View Hotel in Garapan and at Mariana Resort & Spa
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/club 88saipan

$2M discrimination lawsuit filed against Telesource

A former employee of the then-Telesource CNMI Inc. has filed a $2-million discrimination lawsuit against his former employers over his alleged termination in 2006 due to his disability from a vehicular accident.

In a pro se complaint or without a lawyer, Garabed O. Mirzoian is suing former Telesource chief executive officer Nidal Z. Zayed and general manager Michael N. El-Rahl with wrongful termination, employment discrimination, disability discrimination, for pain and suffering, and emotional distress.

According to Mirzoian, Telesource has changed its name to Pernix Group Inc. and that El-Rahl and Zayed are now based in the company's offices in Fiji Islands and Illinois, respectively.

The plaintiff said Telesource terminated him after finding he was injured as a result of a vehicular accident involving two buses.

He said he suffered serious injuries during the accident that took place during the scope of his employment with Telesource.

Mirzoian said before he was medically referred to Guam, Telesource tried to negotiate with a lower pay for him because he had received a letter from a doctor stating he could work "light duty only."

Mirzoian said he refused the offer because he was hoping that his nerve problem could be fixed.

He said El-Rahl advised him that if he does not take or sign the agreement, he will be fired.

He said he was subsequently medically referred to the Philippines for surgery.

The plaintiff said he was then terminated without cause on the day the lower pay was offered.

Mirzoian said when his body recovered from the surgery, he sought help from attorneys on Saipan, but no one could help mostly due to "conflict of interest."

He added that he is a shareholder of Telesource. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-CBP officer goes back to jail after supervised release revoked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday revoked the supervised release of Bob Hajime Deleon Guerrero Yamagishi, a former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer who admitted violating the conditions of his probation by using methamphetamine or "ice" last Christmas Day and other times.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded Yamagishi to the custody of the U.S. Marshal and ordered his release on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

After his release, the defendant will be placed on 35 months of supervised release.

The judge said supervised release helps probationers' re-entry to the community and that she noticed that most of probationers don't come back to court quickly.

"You're one of the quickest to return to court," Manglona told the former CBP officer.

Yamagishi was slapped last Nov. 10 with a sentence of 44-day time served and three years of probation for two counts of wire fraud.

The judge said she is re-imposing the same conditions of defendant's supervised release so he could be rehabilitated from his drug and gambling addictions.

Manglona said there are many gambling facilities now on Saipan and Yamagishi is not allowed to go inside casinos and other gambling establishments.

Among the many conditions imposed on Yamagishi is to undergo drug testing and participate in drug rehabilitation program.

Manglona said although the supervised release is 35 months, it could be only 25 months if the defendant complies with all the conditions.

"The goal is for you to overcome this drug addiction," the judge said.

Yamagishi admitted the allegations of using "ice" several times and failing to appear for random drug testing and for counseling sessions.

"I admitted my drug use. I am sick. I'm trying my best," the defendant said.

Yamagishi said he is still fighting his drug addiction.

He said he always says that he is not a criminal but only has a drug addiction.

"I want to change. That's not who I am," he said.

Attorney Janet King said her client, Yamagishi, has a drug addiction that he can't control.

King said Yamagishi expresses remorse and the need for help.

King said the defendant is willing to participate in the drug court program.

The lawyer said Yamagishi currently got a job at a private company.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing appeared for the U.S. government.

The U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke the supervised release of Yamagishi for violating the conditions of his supervision.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Assistant Juanette David-Atalig, Yamagishi admitted to using "ice" on Dec. 11, 21, and 25, 2015, and on Jan. 10, 2016.

David-Atalig said the offender also failed to appear for random drug testing on Dec. 11 and 12, 2015, and Jan. 8 and 9, 2016.

The probation officer assistant said Yamagishi failed to appear for his counseling sessions on Dec. 12 and 14, 2015, and Jan. 12, 13, and 14, 2016.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg disclosed yesterday that Yamagishi used "ice" again on Jan. 15, 2016.

Yamagishi was sentenced to time served last November after pleading guilty to two counts of wire fraud for making illegal cash advance transactions on a travel charge-card between July 4 and Aug. 7, 2014.

SURVEY TRAINING FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Enumerators will be going out from house-to-house starting tomorrow for the pilot and hybrid Non-Communicable Diseases/CNMI Behavioral Health Survey. They have finished their final training this week with the various agencies involved in the survey.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PO Box 502149; Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian, on Friday, January 29, 2016,* at *6:00 p.m.* on the application of *Alter City Group Incorporated*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *golf and casino resort*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For fur ther information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Meet our small business accelerators.

Free Credit Card Processing for 3 months[1]
- Competitive pricing
- Local, responsive service

United MileagePlus® Business Credit Card[2]
Apply by February 29, 2016 and if you are approved, you can receive[3]:
- Up to 25,000 bonus miles
  - 10,000 bonus miles at account opening
  - 15,000 bonus miles after spending $3,000 on qualifying purchases within the first 3 months of account opening
- $0 intro annual fee for the first year; thereafter, $45 per card
- 2 Miles per $1 spent on qualifying ticket purchases made directly through United

Free Business Checking[4]
- $20 off first order of checks[4]
- $100 minimum opening deposit
- 25 free transactions per month[5]
- No monthly service charge

Stop by any branch or visit fhb.com.

First Hawaiian Bank®
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC

1 This offer only applies to merchants who did not have a merchant services account with FHB in the past 12 months. After 3 months, standard fees apply. See Merchant Bank Card Processing Agreement for terms and conditions. Requires 2-year minimum enrollment in FHB Merchant Services; early termination fees apply. Other fees may apply, including, but not limited to, fees related to card associations, vendor and the PCI and Data Breach Assistance Program. Merchant deposits must be to a FHB account. Subject to credit approval.
2 Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. MileagePlus Program participation may not be permitted in some countries. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for premier status, will be made by United Airlines and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to www.united.com.
3 Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus® Business credit card by 2/29/16 and, if you're approved, receive 10,000 bonus miles at account opening and 15,000 bonus miles if you spend $3,000 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. $0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is $45 per card. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus® Credit Card Agreement for more information.
4 The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the $20 discount on the first business check order is $100. No minimum balance required to avoid a monthly service charge. Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the $20 discount off any business check style when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch, open a new (not converted) Free Business Checking or any other business checking account and place your first business check order. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit one $20 discount per customer or account. Offer expires 2/29/16. Miscellaneous fees and service charges do apply.
5 Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of $0.50 per item over 25.

SIS Math Club helped Jang, Cho

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly established Math Club at the Saipan International School helped 11th graders Jaehoon Jang and Myung Jae Cho in earning spots on the CNMI MathCourt team that would be competing in the Nationals on May 13 at the at the Brookside Charter School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jang

Cho

Deatrich

SIS' Math Club, which has close to 30 students practicing and meeting every Tuesdays and Thursdays, was organized in mid-August with math teachers Kacey Deatrich and Insur Lee drilling their members with various math problems for them to solve.

The end result, 10 of the 22 finalists of the High School CNMI-Wide MathCourt competitions came from SIS.

"The Math Club meets twice a week after school every Tuesdays and Thursdays since most of the kids also have other commitments. Me and Insur Lee, who is another Math teacher, split the members and give them problems to solve," said Kacey Deatrich, who was the SIS coach in the CNMI MathCourt.

She arrived six days before Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan after teaching for four years in Australia, where she also obtained her masters in education. She finished her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics at St. Joseph's College in New York where she also taught for a number of years before moving to Australia. She teaches 8th to 10th and 12th grades at SIS.

Jang, who obviously has Math as his favorite subject, said aside from the Math Club he also credits his parents in making math easier for him.

"I don't know, I find Math easy for me compared to my other subjects. My parents gave me different problems to solve everyday since I was in the second grade," said Jang, who moved from Seoul to Saipan in 2008.

"It has became a routine for me. When I was in the 9th grade, I study 9th grade Korean Math, which is a little harder. Also, during the school break most of my friends went back to Korea while I stayed here and studied trigonometry," added Jang, who likes to play volleyball and basketball in his free time.

Jang was a member of SIS II that won the silver in the team competition while Cho, who also went to last year's Nationals as a 10th grader, is part of bronze medalist SIS I.

Daniel Lim and Jun Young Chung are the other members of Team SIS II, while Dong Hee Im and Donggu Hyon joined Cho at SIS I.

Cho was fifth while Jang sixth in the individual event. They finished behind gold medalist Beibei Chen of Agape Christian School, Marianas High School's B. Masrur Alam (silver) and ACS' Claire Song (bronze) and Allan Zhao (fourth).

"I want to major in education but my dad wants me to take up engineering. I don't know, I haven't decided yet," said Jang, who is also a member of SIS' track and field team.

The soft-spoken and visibly shy Cho said that they have yet to meet the other members of Team CNMI, which is set to practice for the first time with head coach Manny Borja tomorrow.

"My advice to my teammates is to practice more. Practice with the team and practice individually," said Cho, who said that he needs to strengthen his Math skills in geometry.

Did you know it's illegal to drive on CNMI beaches according to PL 3-61§5807?
Hatchling turtles cannot dig out of their nests when sand is compacted by heavy vehicles beach driving. Hatchlings also become trapped in deep vehicle ruts during their scramble to the sea; making them travel in the wrong direction and increasing their chances of death by depredation or dehydration.
Give hatchlings a brake: walk it, don't drive it!
To report sick, injured, dead or disoriented turtles please call our stranding hotline at 287-8537 (C-TRTLES).
CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CNMI

CUC continues to fill important vacant positions

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is continuing its efforts to fill some of the vacant positions in the company.

In a meeting yesterday, CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho reported to the board that they have chosen an individual for the position of "drinking water and wastewater division manager."

The said position is a stipulated order position.

"We have selected an individual. We have communicated with him, and we have sent a copy of a contract to him for review for a couple of days and to return with his decision," Camacho said.

He added that they expect to hear from the chosen candidate today or on Saturday.

"That person is off-island," Camacho said in an interview.

Another stipulated order position which is the "petroleum and compliance manager," also known as technical manager for oil, was recently filled by CUC after Maximino Simian was hired for the position.

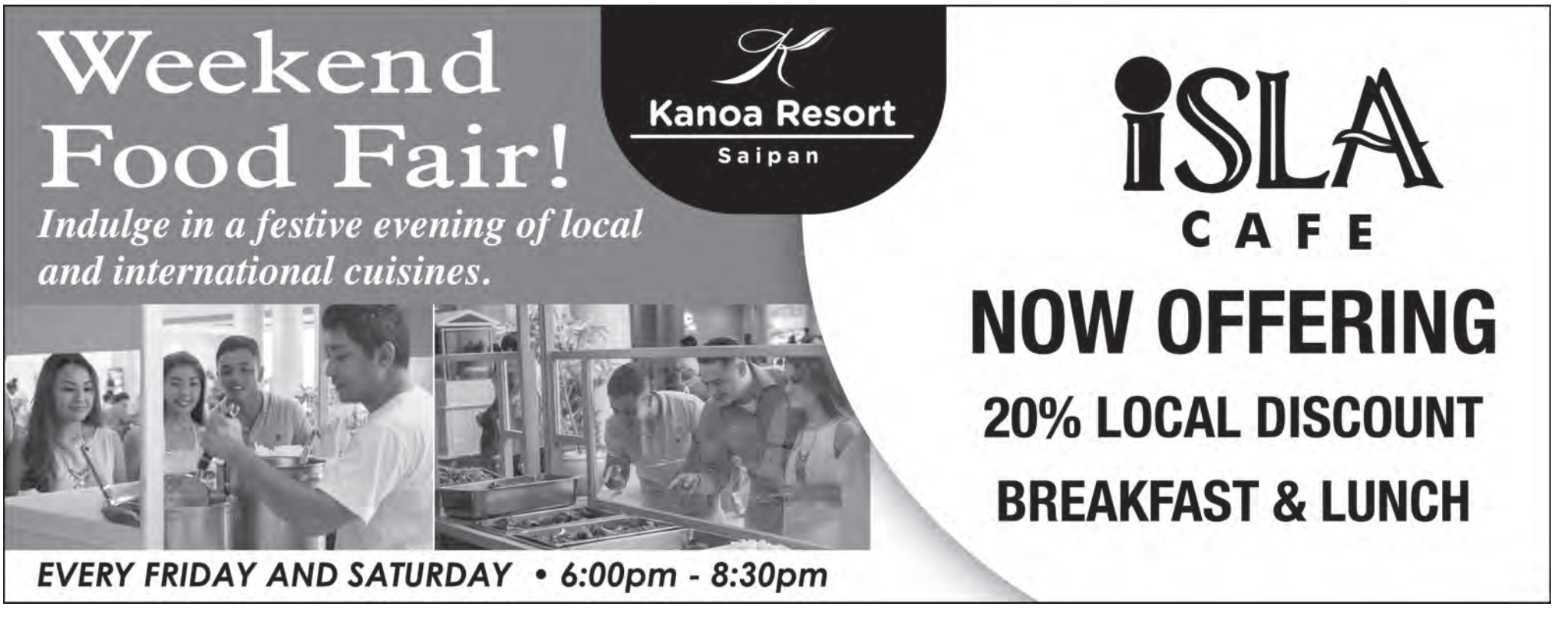
Simian was CUC's environmental and remediation manager for power generation prior to being hired as TMO.

He is a registered professional geologist and has 14 years of experience in the field. Simian also worked for the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

As for the human resources manager position, Camacho said the person is on island.

"I did communicate with the top two," Camcaho said during the meeting, "We're going to move to offer to one of them."

CUC's HR manager position has been vacant since July. During a prior meeting, the utilities company said there were about seven applicants for the position.


Weekend Food Fair!
Indulge in a festive evening of local and international cuisines.
Kanoa Resort Saipan
iSLA CAFE
NOW OFFERING
20% LOCAL DISCOUNT
BREAKFAST & LUNCH
EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY • 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Best Sunshine CSR team in action

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. donates $1,500 to the Commonwealth Women's Association for the purchase of New Year's gifts. A total of 153 gifts will be distributed to the children of CWA's case management clients on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. From left, CSR representative Dania Mettao, CWA treasurer Julie O. Manglona, CWA case worker Patricia Mareham, CSR director Rita Chong, CWA program administrator Debra Inos, CWA secretary Jackie Che, CSR administrator Selmalyn Taitano, and CSR representative Cylia Leon Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

House Floor Leader George Camacho, left, is joined by CSR director Geri Dela Cruz and one of her team members during a recent cleanup drive.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR 1 team applies a paint job in beautifying the surrounding environment of the San Vicente basketball court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Following a successful cleanup, the Best Sunshine's CSR team huddles together for a group photo.

Sunshine Garden
RESTAURANT

MAIN DISHES

LIVE LOBSTER
$45 1lb Lobster Only
COMBO
1.5lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs withj 2 cup Toast Salad $80
Live Lobster and Ribs Combo 1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70

STEAK
New York 12oz. $32
Steak Combo Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32
Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35
Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze

RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs
Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15
Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce

BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce
Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone
Sides:
One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice

COMBO MEAL

Beef Stroganof $12
Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10
Stir-Fried Tofu $8
Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10
Combo Set $12 Pizza ($11)
Steak/Flank $10
Cheese Burger $10
Chicken Tandoorie $10
Cordon Bleu $16
South Western Chicken $12
Beef Bulgogi $12
Fried Porkchop $10
Combo Seafood $12
Beef Salpecao $10
Calzoni $11
Hawaiian Pizza
Vegetarian Pizza 12"
Four Kind of Cheese Pizza

APPETIZERS

Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo
Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion
Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper
Breaded Calamari $9
Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole
Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves
French Bread with Peas Pesto $5

SALADS

Toast Salad $8
With Tomato, Cucumber and Black Olive.
Dressing: Thousand Islands, Honey Mustard, French, Vinaigrette, Ranch
Caesar Salad $8
With Lettuce, Bacon Bits, Cheese
Grilled Shrimp $14
Grilled Chicken $12
Dressing: Caesar Dressing

SOUP

Clam Chowder $3
Bake Potato Soup $3

20% DISCOUNT ON ALL FOOD POSTED (EXCEPT DRINKS).
MUST PRESENT VALID LOCAL ID.

HUANG SHUN CORPORATION
Business Hours: 11:00am - 2:00pm • 6:00pm - 10:00pm • Location: Texas Road, Susupe back of Marianas Business Plaza
For reservations or inquiries, please call (670) 235-0105

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 15

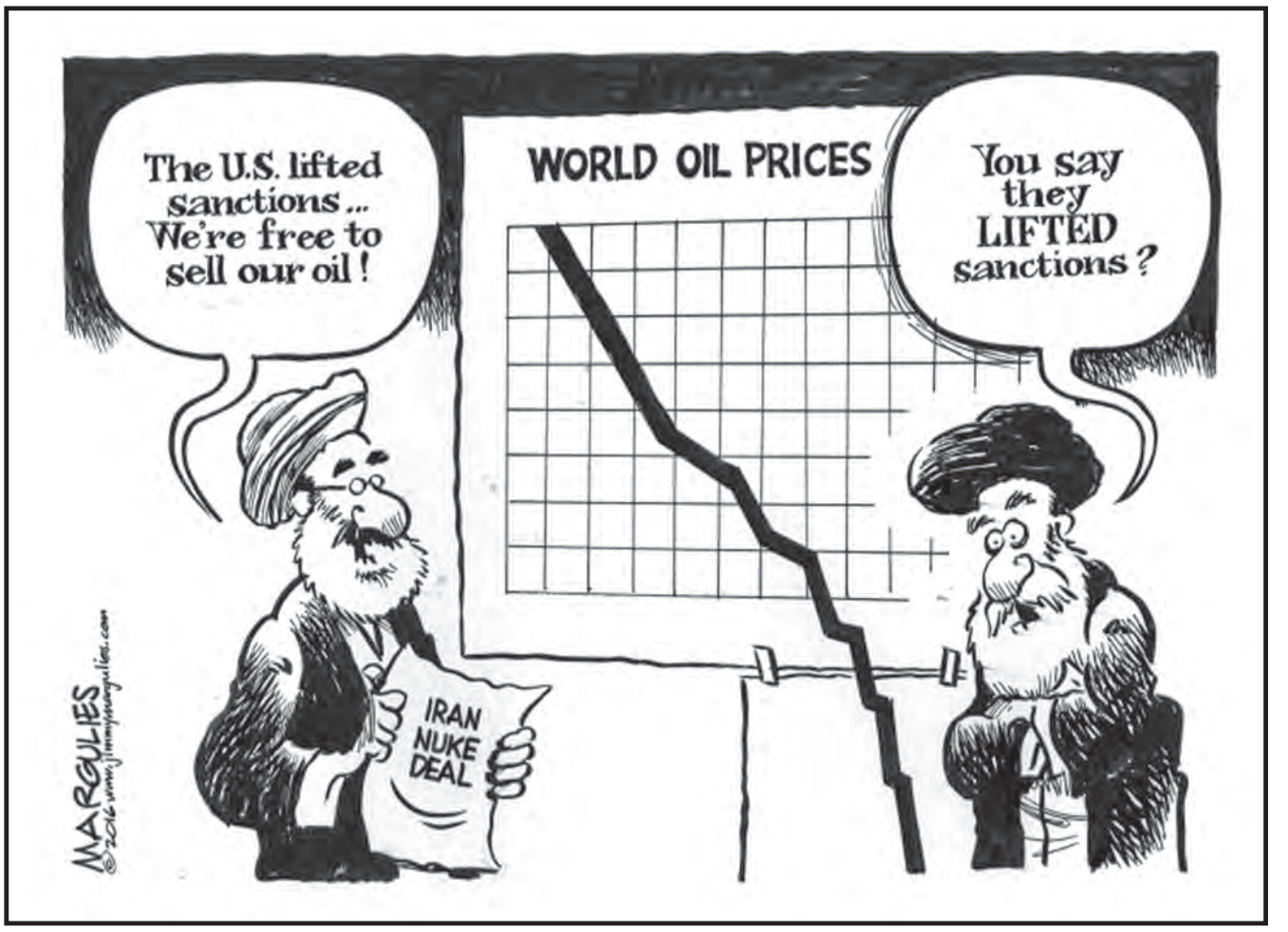
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


The U.S. lifted sanctions... We're free to sell our oil!
WORLD OIL PRICES
You say they LIFTED sanctions?
IRAN NUKE DEAL
MARGULIES
©2016 www.jimmymargulies.com

EDITORIAL

Five booksellers from Hong Kong disappear. Is China's government involved?

In Hong Kong, they're calling it the case of the five missing booksellers. What an intriguing title for a mystery, but do not file it under fiction. Five men from Hong Kong's publishing industry really have vanished, leaving residents to wonder if there is a sinister explanation involving authorities in China and the possible violation of Hong Kong's freedoms.

All five are connected to a Hong Kong publishing house and bookstore specializing in Chinese political gossip—books that are banned in China. Three of the men disappeared while in mainland China in October and a fourth was last known to be in Thailand that month. The fifth is a book editor named Lee Bo, who set off to visit a Hong Kong book warehouse in late December and never returned home.

Lee's wife filed a missing persons report, which she retracted after he contacted her from the mainland with an odd excuse about "cooperating with certain parties in an investigation." He'll be gone a while, he faxed, don't worry. There is no confirmation of his whereabouts from China's government. There is also no record of Lee ever having left Hong Kong territory via a border crossing.

Feel the suspense and dread building? In Hong Kong many people do, because the book company has enemies in China. The firm, Mighty Current Media, produces alluring titles like "Overseas Mistresses of the Chinese Communist Party"—sensationalistic books that appeal to visitors from the mainland hungry for tales of sex and corruption among powerful officials. At home, the party controls the media and everything else, which makes for pretty dry reading.

Hong Kong is different — or at least it's supposed to be. When the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule in 1997, Hong Kong was granted 50 years of governing autonomy under the principle of "one country, two systems." That's supposed to include an independent judiciary and free press. But Beijing chafes at Hong Kong's freedoms and puts restraints on the independence Hong Kong citizens value. The two sides have been embroiled in a battle over the terms of Hong Kong's next election of a local leader. Democracy activists want an open vote, but Beijing insists on vetting the candidates.

With that conflict still raw, many in Hong Kong imagine the worst about the fate of the booksellers: that some authorities in China lost patience with the publisher and snatched the employees. If so, the last straw was likely rumors that the publisher's next book would be about an old girlfriend of Chinese President Xi Jinping. A Chinese government newspaper, Global Times, lashed out at the book publisher in a recent editorial, saying it "damages the mainland's vital interests to maintain its harmony and stability."

Now about the disappearances: Hong Kong police are

See FIVE on Next Page

Smoking kills

The Kent cigarette for sale at Duty Free has blunt bold letters of "smoking kills" on one side with a sentence on the other side: "Smoking can cause a slow and painful death." The sale of tobacco is brisk if airport DFSs are to be the judge. At my house in Shenyang, along with the Kent, were a pack of black menthol and a regular Marlboro, and four Esse. I meant to throw them away.

I quit cold-turkey on cigarettes in '84 after more than a decade of indulging. My Dad died at 94, and my soon to be 96-year-old Mom lies at a hospice in Honolulu graciously resigned on the inevitable. My parents didn't smoke but my Papa's Mama rolled her own and lasted till she was 95. She grew Virginia leaves that grew as a cash crop in Ilokandia's fields in my youth as my father's relations smelled of pugon (dryer) all the time.

With my wife playing dutiful daughter in China, a go-fer for her sick parents living with her in Shenyang the last three months, expected to be with them for another six until a suitable institutional care can be arranged, she is not expected to join me and my household anytime soon, so I decided to smoke the Kent to while the time away.

My, we are really regressing here but it is just like getting back to pre-'84. I smoked a pack in two days, filling my lungs with 0.4 mg of nicotine, 5 mg of carbon monoxide, and 4 mg of tar, getting my throat dry as an overdone roast and my chest heavy navigating the walkway rails.

A friend suggested that I shift to Pedro Domecq's brandy de Jerez, a Fundador, an unopened bottle leftover from a visitor in the kitchen cabinet. Find a smoke-free teetotaling GF who would swat my fingers before I flick a lighter. Duh.

One of the 2nd graders on the front row at a school I subtaught kept looking at me and asked every five minutes why I had a lot of gray hairs. "Old man at 70" was insufficient explanation. He exhibited repetitive behavior.

I probably lost a year on the longevity count with the two packs I smoked. Doing so was with less pleasure than it once did. In fact, I probably contributed a handful of plastic fibers to the apartment's water drainage as some missed the communal trash.

The big question is, with the big letters of warning screaming boldly at my face, why did I persist in reviving an old nasty habit? *Shenjingbing* (crazy) is a favored expression in China. I fitted the bill.

Autonomic behavior is often present at birth. Teachers deal with hyperactive children all the time, with incidences getting higher as we inject more chemicals into our system from as common as food preservatives. I have two kids diagnosed with ASD, autism spectrum disorder, whose behavior resembled the hypers in my classes. They were easy to spot 'cause they stood up and did their own thing in their own universe when I asked for a three-to-five minutes of "listen" when I gave a context for the day's activity.

My questioning 2nd grader with a prominent family name was relentless in calling attention to him self; he was evidently used to being the center of attraction. In the exercises, students asked to work together with a classmate, a practice encourage by teachers knowing that the best way to learn is to teach it to another. The problem was that the knowledgeable provided the answers and the unknowing copied, defeating the whole purpose of the exercise. The "me, me" syndrome reared its ugly head.

Which then led me to ask if I was also exhibiting the autonomic "me, me" behavior in wanting to recover the old pleasures of smoking. The Kent pack printed the warning boldly enough but I lighted up like "kill" was a dismissible matter.

We have many behaviors like this, manifestly disadvantageous to our welfare but we insist in doing it anyway. We label them as bad habits, or more neutrally, an addiction, as if Esse's low nicotine would spare us the tar. Kent persists: SMOKING KILLS!

On Saipan, the importation of cocaine and methamphetamine is a lucrative business. We learned of ingenious attempts to spirit the substance into a market whose per capita consumption is on the top 10 of the nation's survey.

The incidences of repetitive behaviors are high. We take for granted the chewing of betel nut with tobacco and powdered limestone thrown in. A sixth grader at SVES defended the habit as cultural. Aberrant behavior we call "illegal" violates the comfort of others. Though individual choice is a feature of democracy, consumption of illegal substances is a matter of personal choice. We see a number of adherents.

The Kent puffed well with the Fundador. I recall that when I ran into the ganja in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, I inhaled, too, Mr. Clinton! Virginia's whiff did not alarm us so handing the stash to our smoking neighbor came easy but our fondness to a nightly three-finger of brandy shows two empty bottles. Acknowledging addiction, an AA 12-steps precondition, takes some doing. Pass the ice, please.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Succession crisis

I have written extensively on the point that our Commonwealth has wedged itself in a succession crisis following the passing of our late governor a few weeks ago. I called upon the electorates for their attention that the whole problem actually started by the irresponsible rule of succession opinion made by the OAG and the elected AG. This compounded by the complete silence of our elected leaders of our Legislature that remains so mystically unexpected, and continues to mock the electorates.

Understandably, the Executive Branch saw the need for take over of power of governorship within hours after the passing of our governor even while our late governor was still receiving the first prayer of rosary at his bedside.

The CNMI Constitution made clear that the executive power shall be vested in a governor, and that no person may be elected governor more than twice. The last sentence of Section 7 of Article lll of the CNMI Constitution states, "an acting governor or lieutenant governor who assumes office when more than one year remains in the term may serve only until a governor or lieutenant governor is chosen in a special election provided by law." The vesting of the power of governor office is the only entity that is solely subject by election. The vesting of the lieutenant governor office could be sanctioned by appointment by the governor, or by election, or by succession in the line of succession and followed by the resignation of the person holding the president of the Senate office. These questions beg for clarification and answer, and it seems going for a judicial decision on the matter is the best option to resolve the issue of "elected" governor, or as in the present case the legitimacy of a person to hold office of governor without being elected to office by implication of law under the CNMI Constitution.

I am not able and ready to pursue moving this matter to a court of competent jurisdiction. First, I do not have the financial ability to pay for the cost of litigation. Second, as a layperson, I do not have the legal capacity to put together the argument following court procedures and rules, and how best to address all the legal, statutory and constitutional issues concerning all these. I do feel that this is an important societal and governmental matter that requires much needed resolution. This is a learning and teachable defining moment of our government and governance, and hoping that all those affected will view this as just that. If anyone who thinks this is a worthy cause and able to get this off the ground, that will be a welcome contribution for the restoration of the sovereignty of governing to the electorates of our great Commonwealth. With this in mind, I do volunteer to be included as a principal litigant for this effort. I am temporarily not on-island, and could be reached at telephone numbers 235-2485 or (360) 481-2710.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla, Saipan

FIVE

From Page 12

investigating. Local officials say they are worried about a breach of the Hong Kong law guaranteeing autonomy, but they have stopped short of demanding an explanation from Beijing. Hong Kong's leader, Leung Chun-ying, said there is "no indication" Lee was kidnapped by Chinese agents. The British government is also asking about Lee because he holds a British passport.

The disappearances are very fishy. If China has any involvement it will be a blow to Hong Kong's identity as an open society, and China's credibility. But damage has been done already: Hong Kong's government sounds tentative, instead of livid, and another publisher reportedly has pulled sensitive books from the shelves. This mystery needs a quick resolution, which requires that Chinese authorities investigate, release the men if they've been detained and explain what happened.

2016 *Chicago Tribune*

Jump!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Modern cars are thirsty for electricity, even when they're not running. The parasitic draw from a car's electronic gizmos draw can drain a battery surprisingly quickly. An even bigger surprise is that some cars can't be put into neutral unless they have electrical power, which means that you're out of luck if you have to push the car to reposition it for a jump start. That's a dead battery double-whammy.

I got hit with this double-whammy, so I took a look at the modern world of hand-held jump starters. Want to jump on a consumer trend? This seems like a good one to join.

A typical hand-held jump starter is about the size of a thick paperback book. This portability eliminates the hassle of having to do a conventional, vehicle-to-vehicle jump start. Every example I'm aware of is powered by a lithium battery. From what I've seen, these devices are running anywhere from $30 to $210.

Consumer Reports took a look at this realm in a July 2015 "Jump starter buying guide." Their website has some information that's available to non-subscribers. Their top pick was the Antigravity Batteries XP-10. I took a look at the manufacturer's website and noted that this model lists for $209.99.

So, that's the top end. If you're more in the mood for contemplating the more affordable end of the spectrum, though, read on.

The recent holiday season was the first time I noticed hand-held jump starters on display in discount stores. The stores must have really stocked up on these things, because they were soon offering some steep discounts. That was good timing, since I was ready to try one out.

I decided to buy the EverStart Multi-Function Jump Starter. Now, as a stand-alone specification, this number doesn't tell the whole technical story, but I'll note that the model is rated at 12,000 mAh. It cost $30 on clearance sale.

The car at issue has a 3.0-liter engine, so I guess that's a medium-sized engine by today's standards, hence a moderate test of the EverStart's ability. I attached the device's clamps to the car's battery terminals, and, to my eternal surprise, we got the car started right away. That's due entirely to the EverStart's muscle, since the battery in the car was not just weak, but was totally dead.

So it's a reassuring result, especially if you're thinking about a Saipan context where so many cars have small, 4-cylinder engines. By contrast, if you have to crank a large-displacement V-8 engine, I don't know how you'll fare, but I intend to run a test when the opportunity presents itself.

Just to put things in perspective, there are larger, heavier jump starters that professional garages and tow trucks often use. These have a lot more juice, and are essentially powered by smaller versions of car batteries, which are lead-acid as opposed to lithium. Unless you've got a truck or SUV, though, and a chunk of spare space, you're probably not going to haul one of these things around when you're out and about.

Anyway, back in the realm of the hand-held jump starters, the EverStart came packed with its accessories in a storage bag. I don't know how they packed things in that efficiently, but I sure couldn't get everything back into the bag. Nobody else could, either. I therefore procured a bigger storage bag from a Japanese discount store. Only the Japanese can match my penchant for hyper-organizing things.

As it typical of the breed, the EverStart has a little integrated flashlight. It also has a single USB port that can be used to charge stuff. That's all well and good, but I just want the jump-starting capabilities, so nothing beyond that matter holds my attention.

Of course, batteries are batteries, so the battery in a jump starter will, just like a car battery, discharge over time. The EverStart manual says that the device should be charged every three months.

As useful as the thing is, it's not a magic wand, so I'm not willing to let it replace jumper cables, and I'm probably not willing to let it simmer in a steaming-hot car for a long time, either.

Between the top-end pick of *Consumer Reports*, and the inexpensive model I bought, there is a swirling galaxy of brands and prices, with varying amounts of power, and with various features and accessories for charging iPhones and laptop computers and such.

Of course, there's no use in sweating some theoretical ideal here. The best thing to buy is often a function of what's easy to get your hands on; that's why I bought what I bought, it was simply there when I needed it. Your procurement situation in Saipan will be different than if you are in Guam or New York. Still, this is a very useful type of tool, so I thought you'd like to know about it.

Other issues in paradise

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

We seem to have used our pug-nose sight to look at issues unsure what to make of them. Either it is treated apathetically and sleepwalked or the elected elite is simply too lazy fulfilling their fiduciary duty. The effects of "affluenza" must be nearing its pinnacle paralyzing their once nimble mind. Here are issues they've missed either inadvertently or purposely:

Sovereignty: The manner with which you conduct business especially on matters relating to foreign affairs is done as though the NMI is a sovereign or independent island nation. The Covenant Agreement provides for protocol on this matter. Our national government won't slam the brakes on economic programs we seek from nearby Japan and Asia.

But it seems that even the traditional definition of representation has shifted in light of the emergence of geopolitical feud between China and our national government US of A. Last I checked Covenant Section 101 is still intact. It spells out our giving up sovereignty to Uncle Sam. Moreover, it's a permanent relationship.

Self-government: We conveniently vent frustrations against the feds over ill disposition of local affairs and call for a review of our relationship. This is lowly adolescency! Take a realistic view at your prism what entails self-government. It includes a constitutional mandate for a "balanced" budget or living within our means.

Did you guard this to ensure we don't run up cumulative deficits of well over $1.2 billion? Doesn't this tell you that the NMI is in serious fiscal crisis with deficit seemingly fossilized and treated like a fly-by cotton ball you dust off your shirt? Hmmm! You missed fulfilling fiduciary duty!

Bureaucracy: With fiscal paralysis it seems logical that you would initiate moves to cut down the cost of all government operations. We have a bicameral Legislature with 29 members intoning "You Are My Sunshine" most days. What have you done collectively to move economic growth forward to shore up funds for essential needs?

If you're true to your fiduciary duty perhaps you could explain to taxpayers whether in fact the NMI needs over 3,000 public sector employees. It's too much of an excess baggage!

The Legislature must be reduced to a unicameral system with eight members. It should open the floodgates to voting for real

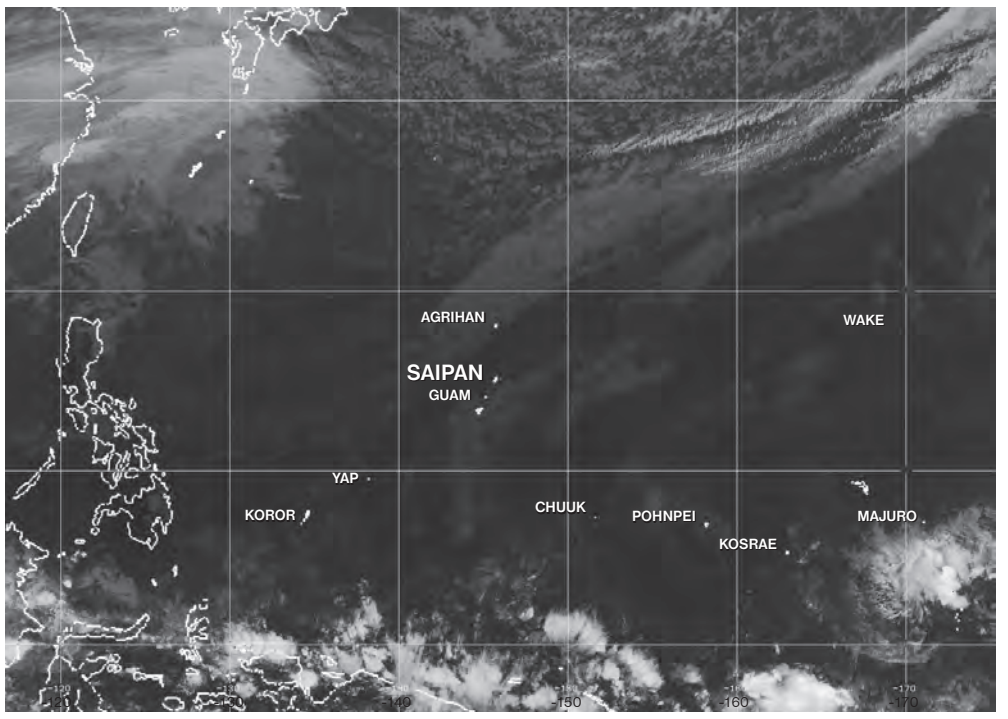
See PARADISE on Page 15

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼73°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front northwest of Wake Island extends southwest through 25N160E to 16N143E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Similar conditions are present east of the cold front within 75 miles of a line from 25N165E to 22N159E to 19N155E. A weak trade wind disturbance is generating widely scattered showers across the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 7N145E to 12N144E to 15N147E. Another disturbance is producing widely scattered showers east of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 16N151E to 16N157E to 11N148E back to 16N151E. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Koror and Chuuk south of a line from 3N135E to 2N152E and near Majuro within 175 miles of a line from 4N168E to 6N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲82	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲12	▼ 2
Hong Kong	Showers	▲50	▼43
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Rain	▲54	▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼60
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲36	▼29
Osaka	Cloudy	▲45	▼32
Paris	Fog	▲46	▼40
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲36	▼13
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼38
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼42
San Francisco	Rain	▲59	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲18	▼ -1
Tokyo	Showers	▲46	▼32
Washington, DC	Snow	▲33	▼27

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
7:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:33 PM	4:48 AM
Saturday	5:28 PM	5:41 AM
Sunday	6:22 PM	6:32 AM
Monday	7:15 PM	7:19 AM
Tuesday	8:06 PM	8:03 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

PARADISE

From Page 13

qualified policymakers who have real percipiency on issues.

Defense: Whether we like it or not, regional security becomes a toxic issue on the table we must deal with as U.S. Citizens in defense of our country.

Recently, more U.S. submarines have been deployed to Guam waters including stealth B-52 Bombers and jetfighters. This elevates geopolitical issue on regional security that doesn't need debate at all. Guam has turned into a major military installation and what it can't accommodate spills over to the NMI. It means our addressing military needs responsibly the NMI being Americana.

Terrorism: We also have taken ISIS creeping agenda for granted. It is now a "significant strategic and lethal threat" even for us out here. In fact, it has gained affiliates faster than Al Qaeda. Nearby Asia has millions of Muslims. A radicalized group of Islam could easily head here to inflict lethal bombings when we least expect it. Indonesia recently saw heavy explosions claimed to be the work of Islam operatives. In either case it involves responsible participation.

Subversion: The move to review U.S.-NMI relationship is ill placed. Or isn't this a subversive move to change loyalty from the U.S. to the Republic of China? As much as I abhor some of Obama's policies I still prefer his big mouth than Jinping's dictatorial muscles. Imagine being overrun by fiat with the privileged few dictating everything. I would be one of the first to disappear mysteriously for being anti-dictatorial establishment. Ever heard of freedom?

Labor: The NMI must realistically address labor needs based on a set of plans. President Obama has proposed what's known as the "wage insurance" proposal covering certain percentage of workers salaries for loss of resulting from a job transfer for at least two years.

It should be an innovative plan the NMI could explore to move government workers to private industries. In other words, if a public sector worker earns $3 per hour and loses a dollar for transferring to a private firm, the government pays the difference. It's a good way forward to easing taxpayers' excess baggage. It should gradually establish policy stability.

Poverty: I've heard shallow spouts about poverty in the islands. It's an issue that merits thorough review the goal being to eradicate it with finality. It needs realistic study. It's an issue that has been around for 50 years since the days of President Lyndon Johnson. But after half a century and $22 trillion in tax expenses it remains a failure to this day. There's a way out of it but it needs political resolve and resiliency to set a fully thought-out approach to resolving it once and for all. How would you approach resolution?

Obamacare: We yawn and ponder the mood in the U.S. Congress to permanently dismantle Obamacare.This move has basically placed the President's signature accomplishment on life support. State governments who opted out aren't ready to absorb the bankrupting effects it would impose upon them as federal matching funds decrease or eventually disappear. It has helped the NMI to the extent that money is available for several more years after which we shoulder all costs. Are we financially poised to absorb additional expenses in the millions of dollars?

isla

Realty Management

a locally owned company

A Real Estate Company that Represent and Understand Your Land Value

Looking for properties to purchase or lease. Local Investors.

• Beach front properties • View properties
• Level open space properties • Downtown Garapan
• Hillside properties

ISLA REALTY MANAGEMENT CONTACT & LOCATION:

MITA Travel Office
Beach Road, Garapan
Contact: (670) 234-7888/483-1726 or
Email: islarealtysaipan@gmail.com

Following Information/Documents Required

Property Map/As Built Map/ Total Land Area
If available for existing building showing exact location & building details
Owner Title Information
Owner Asking Price

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX (6) AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS
for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Saipan Commuter Terminal
Project No. CPA-SA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure, deliver and install six (6) each air-conditioning units to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Saipan Commuter Terminal, including one year warranty and one year preventive maintenance.

A scope of work (SOW) detailing the capacity and location of each unit is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project and previous similar project experience.

A walk through inspection will be conducted on **January 22, 2016 at 9:00** a.m. in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for all interested proposers. Prospective proposers will meet CPA staff at the Ports Police Central Office prior to the inspection to acquire security badges. A valid photo I.D. is required to obtain a security badge.

The contract period for procurement and installation will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse by CPA.

All proposals are to be submitted one (1) original and four (4) copies in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager at cpa.edmendiola@pticom.com and cpa.engr@pticom.com.

All This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	40%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	30%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40.50.225. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman /Contracting Officer

Date: January 5, 2016

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI?
GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
LED TUBES
Best Price in Saipan
Less & More
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
NEW ARRIVALS
Electric Tools
Made in USA
Jig Saws, Hammer Drills, Finish Sanders, Circular Saws and etc.
NEW ARRIVALS
KITCHEN & BATH ACCESSORIES
Storage Rack • Towel Rack
Unique and Graceful Design
Stainless & Space-Age Aluminum
New Arrivals
ALUMINUM WINDOWS
MADE IN USA | All Sizes
VARIOUS STYLES:
French, Aluminum, Bronze
CERAMIC TILES
FASHIONABLE NEW DESIGNS!!
Big Promotion!
The Best Prices and Quality on Saipan
SPECTRUM PAINT
· Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
· Longer Service Life
· Top Quality
FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS
INT & EXT LATEX
MAHOGANY LUMBER & DOOR JAMBS
HIGH QUALITY/ALL SIZES
CHAIN LINK FENCE
ALL SIZES
"The Best PriceS on Saipan"
REBAR US STANDARD
#3 TO #8
MADE IN KOREA
U.S. LUMBER
PRESSURE TREATED / REGULAR
15% TO 75% OFF
ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Human rights presentations at Mt. Carmel School

Most teachers know that students learn best when they feel nurtured and safe. This insight was the thrust behind two human rights presentations at Mount Carmel School this past week.

One presentation was facilitated by members of the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition for juniors and seniors regarding human trafficking, while the other was facilitated by Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence for Freshmen and Sophomores regarding sexual assault.

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

President Barack Obama first declared January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month last year, the first time the issue had ever been recognized at that level. According to his presidential proclamation, "Today, millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking. This modern-day slavery occurs in countries throughout the world and in communities across our Nation."

President Obama added, "During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we stand with the survivors, advocates, and organizations dedicated to building a world where our people and our children are not for sale. Together, let us recommit to a society where our sense of justice tells us that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, where every person can forge a life equal to their talents and worthy of their dreams."

As part of the CNMI's observance of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month, Lauri Ogumoro, executive director for Karidat, led a team of presenters from the CNMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition who shared a wealth of information on the issue with Juniors and Seniors.

Ogumoro emphasized how important it is to the coalition to raise that awareness. "Each year we're called to heighten the awareness of human trafficking, and this year we're trying to make a concerted effort to get to the schools."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lauri Ogumoro, executive director for Karidat, shares information with Mount Carmel School students about human trafficking as part of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month.

Speaking of her passion for the work that her coalition does, Ogumoro said, "We're committed to it because when you take in a victim and you see the transformation and they become a survivor, it motivates you to keep going and keep working. It just fuels what you do to see that transformation."

For senior and student council moderator, Sung Hun Ryu, the presentation was an eye opener. "It really opened my eyes to my surroundings. Now, I see that everyone has a duty to see if anyone needs help." He added, "We take having freedom for granted, while others are suffering because of human trafficking. But we can make a difference by just being more aware."

FIGHTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

Maisie Bermudes Tenorio, the executive director for by Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, and her team led freshmen and Sophomores through an activity entitled "In Their Shoes," which Tenorio said, "is an educational tool we use to teach students, as well as teachers about teen dating violence."

Tenorio added, "Facilitators guide a students through a simulation where they become one of six teen characters experiencing dating violence and abuse. Students walk 'in their shoes' as they make choices about their relationships and move through the scenario by reading about interactions with their dating partner, family, friends, counselors, police, and others. At the end of the simulation, facilitators engage students in a discussion."

The activity was a powerful one for the student participants. Freshman Kalyn Diaz gained a new perspective from the whole activity. As she put it, "It really surprised me because I've never experienced something like that." She added, "It helps you realize the signs of a bad relationship or what happens to victims like that, so that if you see those signs, you can do something to help." ***(PR)***

District Court of Guam
and
District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT GUP 16-001

Position:	Chief U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Officer
Location:	Hagåtña, Guam
District Offices:	Hagåtña, Guam, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Salary:	Judiciary Salary Plan - JSP 15 – JSP 16 ($117,376 - $170,400) (Salary commensurate with experience plus 13.70% COLA, which is subject to change)
Closing Date:	February 19, 2016

Position Overview
The U.S. Probation Office for the District of Guam and the District for the Northern Mariana Islands is accepting applications for the position of Chief U.S Probation/Pretrial Services Officer. The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer administers and manages federal probation and pretrial services for both district offices, and reports directly to the Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge for the District Court of Guam, and the Honorable Ramona V. Manglona, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Chief Probation/Pretrial Services Officer is under the administrative direction of the Chief Judge of both District Courts. The Probation Office maintains its main office in Hagatna, Guam, and an office in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The candidate must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible to work in the United States.

Position Requirements
The complete vacancy announcement is available at www.gud.uscourts.gov and www.nmid.uscourts.gov. The announcement includes the following: Representative Duties, Qualifications & Specialized Experience, Crediting of Substantial Management Experience, Court-Preferred Skills, Provisions for Law Enforcement Retirement Coverage, Physical & Medical Requirements as a Law Enforcement Officer, Background Investigation, and Conditions of Employment.

Application Process
Specific details on the application process are described in the complete vacancy announcement. The judiciary's AO78 Application Form is available at the website.

All application documents must be complete and submitted by 5pm, Friday, February 19, 2016. Incomplete application documents will not be considered for review by the Court Selection Panel.

The most qualified candidates will be invited to a personal interview with the Court Selection Panel. Candidates selected for an interview will have to travel to the interview at their own expense.

The U.S. Probation Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any announcement without written notice to all applicants. The U.S. Probation Office is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-16-004

SURVEYED VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment located in Saipan & Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-16-004, CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles & equipment. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles/equipment to the prospective bidder in an **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles/equipment.

The vehicles/equipment may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 664-4282 extensions 367 & 305. For the vehicles on Tinian, please contact Winston Omar at 433-9261 or 433-3488.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

Torres to get first dibs on '16 CNMI Phone Book

Yellow Pages Ink, publisher of The CNMI Phone Book, will present the first set of copies of the 2016 CNMI Phone Book to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 10am at the Governor's Conference Room on Capital Hill.

The CNMI Phone Book offers true Internet local search capability. Simply log onto www.guamphonebook.com and receive the Phone Book electronically. The site provides the look and feel of the printed yellow pages and all sections of the phone book with a wide variety of interactive features including links to Guam news updates, current events, weather, traffic, tourist information and more! All advertisers in the 2016 CNMI Phone Book appear in the online directory.

In addition, YPI will introduce The CNMI Phone Book App, a stand-alone app that provides versatility and convenience of The CNMI Phone Book on your smart phone. The app is free and is available on the Apple app store and Google Play for android phones.

Yellow Pages Ink and The CNMI Phone Book continues to provide the best directory and local search services for our island residents. ***(PR)***

Pacific scientist in China to present taro supply breakthrough

NANNING GUANGXI, China—A scientist from the Pacific Community is in Nanning Guangxi, China, this week to present important research on new methods for improving the supply of taro planting material. Improved production methods are important for food security and taro export industries in Pacific Island countries and territories.

Ulamila Lutu is currently attending the inaugural World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops, which brings together around 750 key industry stakeholders including farmers, researchers, the private sector and donor agencies.

Lutu, a senior Research Technician at SPC's Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees in Fiji, presented the center's efforts to improve mass propagation of taro planting material using a "bioreactor system", with Samoa's taro industry providing a case study.

This research is especially significant in light of the taro leaf blight which saw Samoa's taro exports fall dramatically from 6,000 tonnes in 1993 to almost zero in 1994.

The study was conducted by SPC's "Developing a clean seed system for market-ready taro cultivators in Samoa" project with funding support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under the Pacific Agribusiness Research Development Initiative.

The SPC trial found that it is possible to reduce the time needed to produce viable taro planting material by eight weeks (from 28 weeks to 20 weeks) using the bioreactor system. The bioreactor-treated plantlets also appeared sturdier and taller compared to those cultured through conventional methods.

The system, a type of laboratory vessel that is used to provide an enhanced environment for growing plantlets in various liquid solutions, was originally successfully trialled on breadfruit, resulting in shortening the time required to produce field ready plants from 44 weeks to 30 weeks.

CePaCT's research, made possible with Australian Government support, provides significant insight into how new mass production methods can help meet the growing demand for traditional export crops in the Pacific.

The World Congress on Root and Tuber Crops concludes on 22 January. More information on the congress can be found at http://www.gcp21.org/wcrtc/index.html. ***(SPC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

***PRO SE* CLIENT SERVICE ASSISTANT**
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Manager of the Family Court or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist Pro Se clients when they come to the Family Court Division seeking assistance in filing their case;
- Assist in the development and enhancement of the Family Court Pro Se Court Services program for family violence cases;
- Maintain and promote positive workflow with Victim Advocates and all other agencies involved in the processing and distribution of family protection cases / TRO (FP/TRO);
- Participate in court and special hearings for all family protection cases;
- Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Assist in the distribution of orders, pleadings and other documents in FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Coordinate and schedule home assessments as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social mental health services;
- Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problem areas, make recommendations concerning the case, and make referrals to other social service agencies;
- Input case information into the Justware Case Management System and the Lexis Nexus E-filing system;
- Attend the monthly Family Violence Task Force meetings;
- Assist in planning and coordination of domestic violence training conferences;
- Maintain and monitor the Victims of Crime Act formula grant program's goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisitions, and;
- Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The *Pro Se* Client Service Assistant should have High School Diploma or equivalent from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related service, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection, or similar field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $18,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. +1 (670) 233-1857
Facsimile: +1 (670) 233-1856
E-mail: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: January 22, 2016 **Closing Date: February 5, 2016**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") announces the following Job Vacancy for immediate recruitment:

	POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT#
1.	MANAGER	Audit Division	$65,000 - $75,000	CCC-16-A
2.	AUDITOR – Financial	Audit Division	$37,000 - $42,000	CCC-16-B
3.	ACCOUNTANT	Administration Division	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-16-C
4.	NAS/CMS ADMINISTRATOR	Executive Office	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-16-D
5.	SPECIAL AGENT	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-16-E
6.	ENFORCEMENT AGENT I	Enforcement & Investigations	$23,000 - $28,000	CCC-16-F
7.	INSPECTOR I	Administration Division	$25,000 - $30,000	CCC-16-G
8.	PERMIT & LICENSING CLERK (2 positions)	Administration Division	$13,000 - $18,000	CCC-16-H

a) **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, & other related qualifications.
b) **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
c) **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
d) **Exempted Positions:** These positions are exempted from the CNMI Civil Service System per P.L. 18-56 & P.L. 19-24

Requirements: **A.** CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) - Original
B. **Resume** with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations
C. **Police Clearance** (within the last 3 months)
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of Valid Identification

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations on some positions.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the POSITION DESCRIPTIONS and Requirements, please contact Ms. Velma Apatang Lore at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, Unit 13 & 14, Springs Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.

New security camera system active in Tumon

TUMON, Guam—The Guam Visitors Bureau and Docomo Pacific have teamed up to increase public safety efforts in Tumon with the installation of the new Digital Sentry System.

Docomo Pacific generously donated the new system to help the Guam Police Department monitor Tumon at the Sgt. Frankie Smith Precinct. The public-private partnership will augment GPD's presence and act as a crime deterrent.

"Tourism is growing and so does our need for public safety," said Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo. "I commend Docomo Pacific, GVB and GPD for all working together to bring a peace of mind for all who enjoy visiting our island."

"I want to thank Docomo Pacific for providing a valuable resource for our police officers," said Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio. "It's public-private partnerships like this that give our island the tools it needs to ensure preventative measures are in place for the well-being of the public."

"We are grateful for this opportunity to extend ourselves to the community with the donation of a state-of-the-art Digital Sentry System throughout Tumon. As a company that believes in Corporate Social Responsibility—it is important to use our products and services to ensure peace of mind for our residents and visitors," said Thomas Higa, chief commercial officer for Docomo Pacific.

Docomo Pacific's investment of over $100,000 in equipment and labor will also include maintenance, repairs, and upgrades—making this a very lucrative donation for the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Guam Police Department.

»Docomo Pacific donates CCTV to increase public safety efforts

The previous Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) system that GPD operated was donated from funds raised through the Governor's Cup golf tournament in the early 2000s. However, the system lacked funding and maintenance over the years. When Docomo Pacific learned that GVB was planning to update the CCTV, they stepped up and donated the new system.

"The public's safety continues to be paramount, especially as we prepare for all the events and activities associated with our Visit Guam 2016 year," said GVB general manager Nathan Denight. "With the anticipated arrival of more visitors and returning island residents, especially during the time of the PATA Annual Summit and the Festival of Pacific Arts, it's important that everyone feels safe. We thank Docomo Pacific for helping us out and we look forward to working with them and the Guam Police Department to extend coverage of the Digital Sentry System outside of Tumon."

The Digital Sentry System covers Pale San Vitores Road, including all major entry and exit points into Tumon. GVB has plans to expand the system to include beachside monitoring as well as coverage along Governor Carlos Camacho Road and Camp Watkins Road.

"This is really a great thing for the Guam Police Department because we're building that partnership," said Police Chief Joseph Cruz. "The camera system that you see here today is not just keeping our tourism industry safe, it's keeping our community safe. I see this as the bigger picture. The bottom line is that we are going to continue to collaborate." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo and Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio inspect the newly installed Digital Sentry System at the Sgt. Frankie Smith Precinct in Tumon with officials from the Guam Police Department, Guam Visitors Bureau and Docomo Pacific. The system was generously donated by Docomo Pacific to augment public safety efforts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GVB general manager Nathan Denight, GVB Board chair Mark Baldyga, Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio, Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Police Chief Joseph Cruz, and Docomo Pacific chief commercial officer Thomas Higa take a group photo at the Sgt. Frankie Smith Precinct to highlight the donation of the new Digital Sentry System.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -v- LAWRENCE M. FLEMING and HERMINIA C. FLEMING	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 93-0253]]]]]

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 11, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 005 I 509, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of January, 2016.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 522
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR *Plaintiff*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, -v- ANGELINA A. MANGLONA Defendant,	] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 02-0408]]]

EIGHT AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 64-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale will be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 28th day of December, 2015.

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

TO: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON AND IVANN I. GATBONTON:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated September 20, 2005, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division and Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4414, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: September 20, 2015; $50,000.00
(c) Amount due for principal: $3,127.72 as of December 1, 2015
(d) Amount due for interest: $10,062.60 as of December 1, 2015
(e) Daily accruing interest: $7.67
(f) Late Charger $904.55 as of December 1, 2015

If the principal, interest, and late charges $14,094.87, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

PARA: ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON yan IVANN I. GATBONTON

Ti un komple i kontratahan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Septembre 20, 2005, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empena gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empena (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empenen (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 011 G 946, ni gaigi gi Kagman III, Saipan, Note Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 799 kuadrao Metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi Division Tano yan Mididan Tano afisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 06 Gi Disiembre 1, 1993, guihi I diskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i informasion

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena: September 20, 2005; $50,000.00
(c) Kantida undebi para principat: $3,127.72 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(d) Kantida undebi para interes: $10,062.60 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015
(e) Interes kada dia: $7.67
(f) Appas pot atrasao (late charges): $904.55 asta ki Disiembre 1, 2015

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $14,094.87 yan i resenable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontraminagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago tangin un kattayi han gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mus dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resive I kata-mu gi halon trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao i nai'I hao i na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i dibi-mu. Maseha haga na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-043

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A NEW TRAILER FOR THE DFW 27' BOSTON WHALER CHALLENGER VESSEL FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-045

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2016 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) TRANSPORTATION AND DEPLOYMENT FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP-DCCA/CCDF-039

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ON THE CNMI CCDF QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS), A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA – CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM

THE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347 ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 1:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON FEBRUARY 05, 2016. ANY QUESTIONS, SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-8547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 10, 2016. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSER(S).
THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

AK Toyota launches 2016 Dream Car Art Contest

TAMUNING, Guam—AK Toyota today announced the launch of the 2016 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, open to students on Guam and the CNMI under the age of 15.

Since 2004, Toyota Dream Car Art Contest has been conducted as part of Toyota Motors Corp.'s social contribution initiatives. DCAC gives children throughout the world the opportunity to develop an interest in cars and helps them feel the joy and importance of having a dream.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children from all corners of the globe to share ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars. Toyota believes in nurturing the creativity of the next generation of great inventors, thinkers and dreamers. Every great idea was born in the glimmer of a dream.

"2016 is an exciting year for Guam and the Marianas, as we are now being considered as an independent source of contest entries and will no longer be combined with entries from the United States," said Ernie Galito, Marketing and Communications Director at Atkins Kroll. "AK Toyota encourages all teachers, administrators, and parents to support student participation in this contest and we look forward to challenging our island's students to dream."

DCAC presents a new opportunity for our island's students to participate for a chance to win great prizes locally, as well as an opportunity to visit Japan for an Award Ceremony. In addition, young dreamers are given tours at a Toyota factory and can experience various aspects of Japanese culture.

Entries will be accepted at Atkins Kroll Toyota in Tamuning until Friday, March 4, 2016 and the contest is open to students in the following age categories: 7 years old and under; 8-11 years old and 12-15 years old. We are encouraging students to create their "Dream Car" using any standard drawing medium (coloring pencils, crayons, watercolors or markers) with the only restriction being the use of digital tools. We're looking for hand-drawn colorful artwork, which shows "Your Dream Car."

For more information, please visit http://www.toyota-global.com/events/dream_car_art_contest/

For more information, follow AK Toyota on Facebook or contact Daena Mansapit at daena.mansapit@aktoyota.com or (671) 648-8641. ***(PR)***

HSC-25 flight surgeon receives Luehrs Award

ASAN, Guam—Lt. Alyson Brinker, with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25, recently won the Richard E. Luehrs Memorial Award as the 2015 top junior operational flight surgeon of the year for the Navy and Marine Corps.

Brinker

The award recognizes first- or second-tour Navy flight surgeons with the rank of lieutenant or lieutenant commander who demonstrate outstanding operational aviation medicine practices, leadership qualities, dedication, initiative and resourcefulness within their operational forces.

"As a squadron with 100 people in a flying status, we could not do our jobs without Dr. Brinker," said HSC-25 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Gabriel Soltero. "She cares for 360 people here at HSC-25 as well as many others in and around the naval community on Guam."

Brinker is the primary care manager for the largest helicopter squadron in the Pacific, vetting more than 30 medical evacuation cases, conducting more than 50 rescues, and providing aid to a dozen critically wounded patients during search-and-rescue (SAR) operations in 2015. She is also HSC-25's acting preventative health and occupational health director, conducting all required occupational physicals and completing more than 300 flight physicals across all branches of service.

"I (am) incredibly appreciative and humbled," she said. "I can't believe I am being recognized for the opportunity to work with the incredible Island Knights team."

Aside from her work with the squadron, she currently serves as the acting regional flight surgeon for the South Pacific region and provides flight duty medical examinations and physicals for the Guam Army National Guard's Det. 2 Delta Co. 1-224th Aviation Medevac Unit, which recently earned her an Army Commendation Medal.

"I cannot accomplish the things I do without all of the efforts of my SAR medical technicians and the hard work of everyone at the squadron," Brinker said. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla Jan. 26 and 28-29 from 10am to 4pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Our grandpa taught us to be wise, God-fearing, grounded, and nice. Happy birthday to the most humble person we know. We love you, Dad. From the Wolf Cubs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy 8th birthday to our not-a-baby-anymore boy, Santino Joshua. Know that no matter how old you get, you'll always be our baby! May our dear Lord bless you always and wishing you many more birthdays. Hope you enjoy your day. We love you, Daddy & Mommy.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For the Supply, Delivery, Installation, & Commissioning of two (2)Runway PAPI Lights (Precision Approach Path Indicator) &two (2) REIL Lights (Runway End Identifier Lights) for the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport, Rota Project No. CPA ROTA-RFP-009-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified electrical and engineering firms, company, and/or corporations to supply, deliver, install and commission two (2) PAPI Lights & two (2) REIL Lights at the Benjamin T. Manglona, Rota International Airport

The proposal package will be available beginning January 15, 2016, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at the Office of the Rota Ports Manager, Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport, at 0900 AM, January 29, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A subsequent site visit will be conducted in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 2:00 p.m., February 05, 2016.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals may be submitted to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, via facsimile (fax) to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.receptionist@pticom.com no later than January 29, 2016. Response to inquiries shall be by addendum and provided to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: 01/05/16

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS PICKUP TRUCKS PROJECT NO. IFB-002-16

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks; (a) one unit 2016 Access Cab, 4 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, two (2) wheel drive, with air conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Rota Airport; and (b) one unit 2016 4/door, crew cab, 6 cylinder engine, automatic transmission, air-conditioning, all other features as per factory specifications for CPA Tinian Airport. Bidder shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing its bid price.

Bidders shall guarantee delivery of the vehicle to CPA within 90 days from award of this bid and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter. Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to January 19, 2016.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) units Pickup Trucks, IFB-002-16". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, January 22, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: January 8, 2016

Business

Cheap oil, good for consumers, is slamming stocks worldwide

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street is drowning in oil.

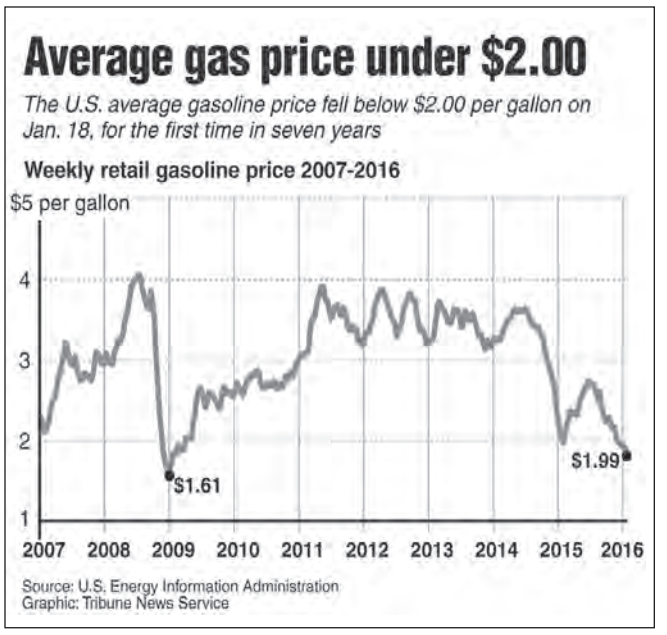
Stocks are having their worst start to a year in history in part because of a rapid plunge in the price of oil. The price of crude is down 28 percent this year already, which in turn has dragged down energy company shares in the Standard & Poor's 500 index by 13 percent, which has helped pull the overall index down 9 percent.

This even though low oil prices—and the cheap prices for gasoline and other fuels that result—are wonderful for consumers and many companies.

"It seems ironic that in the run-up to the global financial crisis we were worried about oil prices being too high in 2007 and 2008. Now we're worried about them being too low," said Julian Jessop, head of commodities research with London-based researchers Capital Economics Ltd.

The drastic drop in oil and stock prices stands in contrast with a U.S. economy that, on the whole, is doing pretty well. U.S employers created 292,000 jobs in December, and few economists see the economy sliding into recession.

Here's what experts think is going on.


Average gas price under $2.00
The U.S. average gasoline price fell below $2.00 per gallon on Jan. 18, for the first time in seven years
Weekly retail gasoline price 2007-2016
$5 per gallon
4
3
2
1
$1.61
$1.99
2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Graphic: Tribune News Service

WHY IS OIL SO LOW?

Because there is so much of it.

A long run of high oil prices inspired drillers to develop new techniques and to go to new places to find more oil, and they succeeded. In the U.S. improved oil drilling technologies known generally as fracking have added more oil to the global market than the total production of any other nation in OPEC other than Saudi Arabia.

Producers in the U.S. and abroad haven't cut back production very much, despite the low prices, and now the lifting of international sanctions against Iran could send more oil flowing into markets that are already awash in crude.

U.S. stockpiles are at their highest level in at least 80 years, and the International Energy Agency predicts that during the first half of this year global oil supply could outstrip demand by 1.5 million barrels per day.

Demand for crude has been growing steadily, but that may not last because economic growth in China, the world's second-largest oil consumer after the U.S., is slowing.

WHY DO LOW OIL PRICES HURT THE STOCK MARKET?

Oil company profits are plummeting, so oil company shares are plummeting, and that is dragging down the whole market.

Analysts estimate that profit for all S&P 500 companies in total are on track to be down a recession-like 5.8 percent for 2015. But if energy companies were removed from that figure, S&P 500 profits would be up a very healthy 5.7 percent for the full year.

That profit drop directly leads to lower share prices that drag down entire indexes. Two of the biggest oil companies in the world, Exxon and Chevron, are part of the 30-member Dow Jones industrial average. Of the 20 biggest share price losers in the S&P 500 this year, 13 are energy companies.

Investors are also selling shares of companies that may have exposure to the oil industry, like certain banks. And the price of oil has now fallen so low that investors are also worried that it could mean global economic growth is much weaker than expected, which could hurt all companies.

AREN'T LOWER OIL PRICES A GOOD THING FOR THE ECONOMY?

It depends on why prices are lower.

If they fall because new supplies have been found, it usually helps the broader economy, and markets held up fairly well during oil's big slide from over $100 a barrel in 2014 to under $50 a barrel last year.

"In the long run, lower oil prices should be positive or at worst neutral for the world economy because all they're really doing is transferring income from oil producers to oil consumers," Jessop says.

But this latest plunge in prices to under $30 a barrel has investors worried that oil prices are falling because global growth is slowing, as businesses and consumers in many developing countries, particularly China, cut back on spending. Bruce Kasman, chief economist at JPMorgan Chase, says that steep drops in oil prices have historically been a sign of a weakening global economy.

Also, U.S. consumers have remained cautious about spending the money they aren't putting into their gas tanks, which limits the benefit to the broader economy. Americans saved 5.5 percent of their incomes in November, up nearly a full percentage point from a year earlier.

Kasman estimates that U.S. spending grew at a tepid pace of just 1.5 percent in the final three months of last year. "There's no doubt that the consumer spending growth figures for the U.S., Europe and Japan have disappointed," he said.

Some of that likely reflected a temporary drag from warm weather, as Americans spent less on winter clothing and utilities. That could turn around in the first quarter, giving the economy a lift, Kasman said.

Delta Air Lines told investors this week that bookings for this spring are ahead of last year's pace because cheaper gasoline means consumers have more money.

World

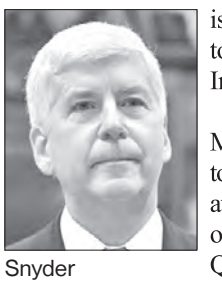
Governor's emails show debate over blame for Flint water

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—A day after doctors reported high levels of lead in Flint children, Gov. Rick Snyder's top aide told him the "real responsibility" for the city's water issues rested with local government officials, emails show.

Then-chief of staff Dennis Muchmore later told the governor that residents were "caught in a swirl of misinformation" about lead contamination and that it was up to city and county leaders to confront the issue, according to the emails, which were released Wednesday.

"Of course, some of the Flint people respond by looking for someone to blame instead of working to reduce anxiety," Muchmore wrote. "We can't tolerate increased lead levels in any event, but it's really the city's water system that needs to deal with it."

In a Sept. 25 email, Muchmore said he could not "figure out why the state is responsible" before noting that former state Treasurer Andy Dillon had signed off on the city's plans to build a water pipeline from Lake Huron, which required a temporary switch to the Flint River during construction.


Snyder

So, he explained, "we're not able to avoid the subject."

Muchmore also said two state agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could not "find evidence of a major change" in lead levels.

By early October, the Snyder administration was forced to acknowledge the validity of the lead concerns and help Flint return to the Detroit water system.

The two-term Republican released more than 270 pages of emails a day after his annual State of the State speech in which he apologized again for the emergency and pledged to act. He called the release of the messages—which are exempt from Michigan's public-records law - "unprecedented" but necessary so people "know the truth."

He did not release the emails of his staff, drawing criticism from Democrats and open-government advocates. The rest of the administration is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

According to Muchmore's emails to Snyder, officials at the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services felt some people in Flint were trying to turn the lead issue into "a political football," claiming the agencies were underestimating the danger and trying to shift responsibility to the state.

Flint's water became contaminated with lead when the city began drawing from the river in 2014 as a cost-cutting measure while under state financial management. The water was not properly treated to keep lead from pipes from leaching into the supply.

Snyder has said he was first briefed on the "potential scope and magnitude" of the crisis on Sept. 28. State epidemiologists validated local physicians' findings on Oct. 1, and the governor said he immediately ordered the distribution of filters along with water and blood testing.

ACROSS THE NATION

Oregon governor calls on feds to act against armed group

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Oregon's governor said she's frustrated with the way federal authorities are handling an armed group's continued occupation of a national wildlife refuge and it's time to end it. Exasperated by a tense situation that has caused fear among some southeastern Oregon residents since it began Jan. 2, Gov. Kate Brown said at a news conference Wednesday that federal officials "must move quickly to end the occupation and hold all of the wrongdoers accountable." "The residents of Harney County have been overlooked and underserved by federal officials' response thus far. I have conveyed these very grave concerns directly to our leaders at the highest levels of our government: the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House," Brown said. The Democratic governor said the occupation has cost Oregon taxpayers nearly half a million dollars. "We'll be asking federal officials to reimburse the state for these costs," Brown said.

Sex abuse scandal rocks exclusive New England prep school

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. (AP)—For more than a century, St. George's School has been part of the pedigree of some of America's richest and most influential families. Astors, Vanderbilts and Bushes have attended the exclusive boarding school, where students can go sailing, play on world-class squash courts or simply enjoy a sweeping view of the sea from the hilltop campus. But since at least the 1970s, leaders at St. George's kept a secret.

Dozens of former students have come forward to say they were raped or molested by employees and schoolmates over the past four decades. St. George's acknowledged in a report it issued shortly before Christmas that it repeatedly failed to notify police and child welfare authorities as required by law. The school's current leadership has characterized the abuse as a problem of the past and said it discovered the extent of the misconduct only recently. But many accusers have disputed that, and much of their anger has fallen on Eric Peterson, headmaster since 2004.

More than 1,000 tested for tuberculosis in rural Alabama

MARION, Ala. (AP)—Tuberculosis, a global scourge, has mostly been eradicated in the United States, but minorities and poor people who lack regular health care remain vulnerable. Marion, the town where Coretta Scott King was raised, is just that kind of community: the seat of Alabama's poorest county, where 47 percent live in poverty and the per-capita annual income is just $13,000. Spurred by two tuberculosis deaths last year, Alabama public health officials tried reaching out in Marion, and were mostly ignored or turned away. Many people seemed suspicious and unenthusiastic about providing blood samples to the government. Efforts in late 2014 to trace the contacts of people who did test positive were stymied; few in the town of 3,600 seemed eager to tell on their neighbors. "We had a very, very poor turnout. Our turnout was so bad, we actually had people throwing beer bottles at us," said Pam Barrett, director of the Alabama Department of Public Health division for tuberculosis control.

Asia

Pakistan school hit by militants was named for Gandhi ally

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The co-ed Bacha Khan University in Pakistan, attacked by Islamic militants on Wednesday, was named for a prominent secular activist and ally of Mahatma Gandhi, and embodied much of what the extremists revile.

The four attackers killed 18 students and two teachers before being gunned down by security forces in an attack that revived painful memories of the assault on a nearby army-run school in Peshawar just over a year ago, which left some 150 people dead, mainly children.

The breakaway Taliban faction that claimed Wednesday's attack called the university "an instrument of the government and army," without elaborating.

■■■

CHARSADDA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan is observing a day of mourning after a deadly attack by Islamic militants who stormed a northwestern university the day before, gunning down students and teachers and spreading terror before the four gunmen were slain by the military.

The death toll from the assault at Bacha Khan university in the town of Charsadda rose to 21 on Thursday, after another student died in hospital, according to police official Tariq Khan.

Flags on official buildings and the parliament are flying at half-staff and police have stepped up security at schools and educational centers across the country.

A breakaway Taliban faction took responsibility for the university attack, which raised grim echoes of the 2014 school massacre that left 150 dead, 144 of them children.

■■■

The militants may have taken aim at the university because it enrolled some 450 women among its 3,000 students. Islamic extremists in Pakistan and Afghanistan are deeply opposed to the mingling of men and women outside the home, and view women's education as a pernicious Western import.

Or the attackers may have been targeting the university's namesake, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a lifelong activist and contemporary of Gandhi who shared his commitment to nonviolent resistance of British rule and opposed the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan. The attack coincided with the anniversary of Khan's death in 1988.

Although Khan hailed from the religiously conservative northwest, he was a secular leftist sympathetic to communism, and an outspoken opponent of an earlier generation of jihadis.

Khan was against U.S. efforts to arm and fund the Afghan mujahedeen battling against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. He later asked to be buried in Jalalabad, across the border in Afghanistan, which was then ruled by President Najibullah, a Soviet-backed communist.

But the Soviets were driven out the following year, in 1989, and Najibullah was overthrown three years later by the mujahedeen, who turned their guns on each other.

The Islamic militants killed thousands of Afghan civilians before the Taliban seized power in 1996. The Taliban, former mujahedeen who mostly hailed from southern Afghanistan, ruled until the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Khan's vision for Pakistan was the polar opposite of the one now being brutally pursued by the Pakistani Taliban and other militants, who have spent more than a decade battling to overthrow the government and establish an Islamic state ruled by a harsh version of Shariah law.

AP

Pakistani students look at a pool of blood following an attack at Bacha Khan University in Charsadda town, some 35 kilometers (21 miles) outside the city of Peshawar, Pakistan, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016.

IS radio beams propaganda, threats across rural Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan reporters recognized the voice threatening them with death on the Islamic State group's local radio station. It was a former colleague, who knows their names and where they work.

The threats were made during a discussion program on "Voice of the Caliphate," an elusive radio station operated by one of the extremist group's newest affiliates. The so-called Khorasan Province has battled Afghan forces and the Taliban alike, carving out an enclave in Nangarhar, a rugged eastern province bordering Pakistan.

It has adopted the media strategy of its mother organization in Syria and Iraq, including the production of grisly, professionally made videos showing battles and the killing of captives. But in impoverished Afghanistan, where few have access to the Internet, radio could prove more effective at recruiting fighters and silencing critics.

The group is actively targeting other media outlets to prevent them from competing with its chilling broadcasts. Militants bombed a building housing two radio stations in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, in October, and attacked the local offices of the independent Pajhwok news agency and Voice of America in July.

The menacing broadcast in mid-December, in which a former local radio broadcaster called on reporters to either join IS or risk being hunted down and killed, could be heard across Jalalabad.

"It is a great concern for us because he knows all the journalists who are working locally," said Shir Sha Hamdard, chairman of the Journalists' Union of Eastern Afghanistan.

"He also knows that as journalists we do not take sides and that our only weapon is the pen. We've tried to talk to representatives of IS to make sure they know this but we haven't been successful," he said. He and other Jalalabad-based reporters asked that The Associated Press not name the IS broadcaster for their own safety.

IS radio can be heard across Nangarhar on an FM frequency for 90 minutes a day in both the Pashto and Dari languages. Programs include news, interviews, vitriol against the Afghan government and the Taliban, recruitment propaganda, and devotional music in multiple languages.

Kin of Malaysian hostage retrieve remains

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The grieving wife and siblings of a Malaysian hostage who was beheaded by Abu Sayyaf extremists in the southern Philippines retrieved his remains in Manila Friday, visibly stunned after seeing his body for the first time.

Bernard Then was kidnapped with a compatriot, Thien Nyuk Fun, in May in Malaysia's Sabah state and taken by boat to the southern Philippine province of Sulu. Thien was freed in November reportedly after a huge ransom was paid, but Then was found beheaded.

"Today we see the closure of a very tragic episode that happened to one of our Malaysian citizen," said Malaysian official Fatimah Abdullah, who consoled and accompanied Then's family to Manila.

"It is very difficult for the family involved and for us as a nation," she told The Associated Press after Then's family had his remains cremated.

Then's wife, sister and three brothers wept quietly and embraced each other when they saw him in a white coffin at a funeral parlor. A Roman Catholic priest celebrated Mass and apologized for the tragedy that befell them in the neighboring Southeast Asian nation. After cremation, Then's wife took the ashes away in a dark urn emblazoned with a cross.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak asked Philippine authorities in November to punish the kidnappers who beheaded Then, an engineer from Malaysia's Sarawak state, saying he and his people were "shocked and sickened" by the gruesome killing.

Abdullah said the public and communities must help their governments fight terrorism by rearing the young to respect laws and value life.

"The governments are making concerted efforts but we should not leave it to the governments alone," she said. "The core values of a human being must be instilled."

It remains unclear what prompted the militants to behead Then. A ransom negotiation was reportedly still underway when he was killed around the time Najib flew to Manila to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November.

The Abu Sayyaf militants have been weakened but have survived more than a decade of U.S.-backed offensives.

ASIAN BRIEFS

France returns head of Hindu statue taken 130 years ago

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The head of a Hindu deity's statue from the 7th century has been returned by France to Cambodia. The head was reattached to its body at a ceremony Thursday at the National Museum, more than 130 years after it was spirited away by French researchers from a temple in southern Takeo province. It had been displayed at France's Guimet Museum until now. The sculpture is of Harihara, a deity that combines aspects of Vishnu and Shiva, the two most important gods in the Hindu pantheon who represent the creation of the universe and its destruction. Deputy Prime Minister Sok An said that "according to our Khmer culture, the reunion is symbolic of prosperity." He appealed to other countries that hold Cambodian artifacts to return them.

Rights group condemns attack on Afghan TV employees

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An international rights group has condemned a Taliban attack on a bus carrying employees of Afghanistan's biggest media company, saying the suicide bombing that killed seven was an attack on freedom of speech. Human Rights Watch said in a statement Thursday the bombing that targeted Tolo TV employees was an "atrocity designed to undermine Afghanistan's still-fragile media freedom." The Taliban took responsibility for Wednesday's bombing—which hit the bus as it was passing near the Russian Embassy—and declared Tolo TV a "spy agency." Tolo TV is owned by Moby Group, a private media company headquartered in Dubai. In 2012, Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation took a minority stake in the company.

China closes military newspapers as part of reform program

BEIJING (AP)—So long, People's Frontline. Adios, Comrade in Arms. China's armed forces have shut down newspapers published by the country's seven military regions as part of a program to downsize and streamline the world's largest standing military. The papers, also including War Flag, Vanguard and People's Armed Forces, have been gradually superseded by official news and propaganda television and websites for soldiers whose access to the Internet and smart phones is restricted. The military's People's Liberation Army Daily said all the publications ceased publishing last week. The oldest, Soldiers News, dated from 1930. The closures leave the storied PLA Daily as the military's sole remaining daily publication, although state broadcaster CCTV also devotes an entire channel to the armed forces staffed by uniformed officers.

World

Disappearance of Bolivia's No. 2 lake a harbinger

UNTAVI, Bolivia (AP)—Overturned fishing skiffs lie abandoned on the shores of what was Bolivia's second-largest lake. Beetles dine on bird carcasses and gulls fight for scraps under a glaring sun in what marshes remain.

Lake Poopo was officially declared evaporated last month. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people have lost their livelihoods and gone.

High on Bolivia's semi-arid Andean plains at 3,700 meters (more than 12,000 feet) and long subject to climatic whims, the shallow saline lake has essentially dried up before only to rebound to twice the area of Los Angeles.

But recovery may no longer be possible, scientists say.

"This is a picture of the future of climate change," says Dirk Hoffman, a German glaciologist who studies how rising temperatures from the burning of fossil fuels has accelerated glacial melting in Bolivia.

AP

In this Jan. 12, 2016 photo, Abraham Fulguera shows his fisherman's credential, in the dried up Lake Poopo, on the outskirts of Untavi, Bolivia.

As Andean glaciers disappear so do the sources of Poopo's water. But other factors are in play in the demise of Bolivia's second-largest body of water behind Lake Titicaca.

Drought caused by the recurrent El Nino meteorological phenomenon is considered the main driver. Authorities say another factor is the diversion of water from Poopo's tributaries, mostly for mining but also for agriculture.

More than 100 families have sold their sheep, llamas and alpaca, set aside their fishing nets and quit the former lakeside village of Untavi over the past three years, draining it of well over half its population. Only the elderly remain.

"There's no future here," said 29-year-old Juvenal Gutierrez, who moved to a nearby town where he ekes by as a motorcycle taxi driver.

Record-keeping on the lake's history only goes back a century, and there is no good tally of the people displaced by its disappearance. At least 3,250 people have received humanitarian aid, the governor's office says.

Poopo is now down to 2 percent of its former water level, regional Gov. Victor Hugo Vasquez calculates. Its maximum depth once reached 16 feet (5 meters). Field biologists say 75 species of birds are gone from the lake.

While Poopo has suffered El Nino-fueled droughts for millennia, its fragile ecosystem has experienced unprecedented stress in the past three decades. Temperatures have risen by about 1 degree Celsius while mining activity has pinched the flow of tributaries, increasing sediment.

Florida Institute of Technology biologist Mark B. Bush says the long-term trend of warming and drying threatens the entire Andean highlands.

A 2010 study he co-authored for the journal Global Change Biology says Bolivia's capital, La Paz, could face catastrophic drought this century. It predicted "inhospitable arid climates" would lessen available food and water this century for the more than 3 million inhabitants of Bolivia's highlands.

Russia shows military might in Syria ahead of peace talks

HEMEIMEEM AIR BASE, Syria (AP)—Helicopter gunships sweep low around Russia's air base on the Syrian coast and long-range air-defense missile systems tower at the base's edge as warplanes take off one after another. The sound is deafening.

Russia's heavy airstrikes in Syria continued Wednesday, days ahead of the hoped-for start of talks on how to end one aspect of the country's five-year-old war, where government forces fight rebels, and militants including the extremist Islamic State have seized substantial stretches of territory.

Even though the front line is dozens of miles (kilometers) away and the area around the base is tightly controlled, the Russian military methodically patrols to make sure there is no ground threat. Soldiers toting assault rifles stood guard around the base as air force personnel bustled under the warplanes wings, attaching bombs and missiles for the next sorties.

Since Russia launched its bombing campaign in Syria on Sept. 30, its warplanes have flown over 5,700 missions. The number is remarkable for a force comprising just a few dozen warplanes.

The Russian military brought a group of Moscow-based reporters to the base Wednesday to see the operation. Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said, by the afternoon, Russian warplanes had flown about 40 sorties, with each aircraft typically hitting three to five targets on a single run. In the early stages of the bombing campaign, planes struck only one target during each mission.

Combat sorties continued after nightfall at the same high tempo, with speeding jets lighting up the night sky with their engine exhausts.

Since The Associated Press first visited the Hemeimeem base in October, the Russian military has put a second runway into service and has deployed powerful S-400 air defense weapons. Asked how long the Russian air campaign may last, Konashenkov said only that Russia's goal is to strike extremist infrastructure in support of Syrian government troops.

"They have shown some good results in defeating terrorist groups," he said.

Iran's top diplomat decries US 'coercion'

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—New U.S. sanctions over Iran's ballistic missile testing are an example of an American "addiction to coercion" despite improved relations and a historic nuclear deal, Iran's foreign minister said in an interview Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in Davos for the World Economic Forum, said the ballistic program was part of Iran's right to legitimate self-defense, and said the prospect of restoring U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations remains "far away" despite the nuclear deal.

His comments to The Associated Press came after the U.S. on Sunday imposed sanctions against 11 individuals and entities involved in Iran's ballistic missile program as a result of Tehran's firing of a medium-range ballistic missile, one day after the Obama administration lifted economic penalties against Iran over its nuclear program.

"We believe these sanctions are uncalled for. We believe the sanctions are illegal. They violate basic principles. The Iranian missile program is a legitimate defense program," Zarif said.

"It shows that the United States has an addiction which has been very difficult for it to overcome," Zarif said. Washington, he said, suffers from an "addiction to pressure, addiction to coercion, addiction to sanctions."

The United States insists Iran's ballistic missile tests violated U.N. sanctions—sanctions that will remain in effect for at least eight more years under the terms of the nuclear accord.

The U.S. administration has long argued that the nuclear deal does not cover other elements of Iran's allegedly bad behavior and that Washington will continue to press Iran to change its ways and punish it when necessary.

Zarif countered that Iran spends far less than its neighbors on its military.

"In addition, the United States sells tens of billions of dollars worth of military equipment to the region," he said. "So it's just preposterous to cry wolf about Iran's ballistic missile program while at the same time you are selling - the United States is selling - tens of billions of dollars worth of toys to our neighbors."

US to announce plan for new visa rules for some Europeans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration will announce as early as Thursday its plan to introduce new visa requirements for European travelers who are dual nationals of Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Syria, or who have visited any of these countries in the last five years.

U.S. officials and congressional aides involved in discussions say the Homeland Security Department will outline how it will phase in the new rule, designed to make it harder for Europeans who have fought for the Islamic State to enter the United States.

The law passed by Congress in December only affects a minority of Europeans, but it has prompted great concern in countries whose citizens generally enjoy visa-free travel to the United States. And it has drawn Iranian charges that the U.S. is violating last summer's nuclear accord by penalizing legitimate business travel to the Islamic Republic.

Iraq and Syria were targeted specifically because the Islamic State has seized significant territory in each country for its would-be caliphate. Iran and Sudan, like Syria, are designated by the U.S. as state sponsors of terrorism.

The officials and aides weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity.

The biggest question mark concerns groups of individuals that could be exempted from the law, allowing them to continue traveling to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program.

According to a congressional aide, the administration will create exceptions for those who traveled to any of the four countries for government or United Nations work, or for humanitarian or journalistic reasons. Legitimate business with Iran also wouldn't be punished. No waivers appear to apply to dual nationals.

Administration officials wouldn't comment.

It's unclear if such carveouts would be supported by Congress; Republican aides say the bipartisan legislation wasn't intended to provide such wide discretion to the executive branch. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law in December.

Science & Technology

REVIEW

Under Armour's fitness gadgets need to shape up

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

BAY LAKE, Fla. (AP)—You may know Under Armour mostly for its heavily marketed line of athletic sportswear. But the company has bigger ambitions: It's jumping into the crowded market for wearable gadgets that aim to help both athletes and couch potatoes track their fitness.

Its $400 package, called the UA HealthBox, comes out this Friday. Made in partnership with gadget maker HTC, the HealthBox has a wrist tracker, a heart-rate chest strap and a wireless bathroom scale. Other components—including shoes embedded with tracking sensors—are on the way.

That's a lot of goodies, even for an avid runner like me, who's accustomed to wearing multiple watches to track workouts. But does it make sense to get all these gadgets from one company? Under Armour isn't first with any of these, and rival products do many things as well or better.

To find out, I tested Under Armour's products and apps over more than 300 miles of running, including seven races over the past two weeks at Florida's Disney World and California's Disneyland.

AP

In this Jan. 4, 2016, file photo, the Under Armour HealthBox is displayed in New York. Developed by Under Armour and HTC, the $400 kit includes a scale, a chest strap to monitor heart rate, and a fitness band to track steps and sleep.

FOR EXERCISE

On its face, the UA Band is just another wrist-worn fitness tracker for measuring steps, sleep and heart rate. And there's an asterisk, too: The device disables heart-rate tracking during runs and spin class. Under Armour wants you to use its UA Heart Rate chest strap instead, as wrist sensors aren't as reliable.

Although the chest strap is a pain to wear, there's an advantage to having those devices working together. A small light on the Band changes color as your pulse increases with workout intensity.

I aimed for the highest intensity—red—during shorter races, but for full and half marathons, red meant I wasn't conserving enough energy for the final miles. The colored lights help make up for the fact that the Band's display is hard to read during runs.

Although the Band doesn't have GPS, it does an adequate job at measuring distance during workouts. It does borrow your phone's GPS to track route information.

FOR SLEEP

The Band's battery lasts a few days under normal use, which is comparable to Fitbits, but longer than smartwatches and Microsoft's Band 2 fitness tracker. You can recharge halfway in just 15 minutes, which is important if you're wearing the gadget all night.

As is typical with fitness trackers, the Band automatically detects how long and how well you sleep. It goes further in singling out your last pulse reading before you wake up. That's your resting heart rate; a high rate could suggest overtraining—or simply that you're out of shape.

FOR WEIGHT CONTROL

The UA Scale syncs weight and body-fat percentage with the company's UA Record app, so you can track your weight. Because it's a pain to log every single meal, Record lets you simply rate the day's meals as light, medium or heavy—though it doesn't distinguish between calories from vegetables or junk food.

Though charts help you monitor trends, there's none that clearly connects calorie intake and exercise to weight. Under Armour says it's working on that, but there's no firm date.

THE ADD-ONS

The three HealthBox devices are sold separately, but because they are designed to work together, Under Armour is pushing the $400 package. It's a reasonable price, even though it might present a hurdle to digital-fitness newcomers.

The company has also partnered with audio maker Harman to make $250 wireless earphones with heart-rate tracking through the ear. It's not coming until this spring, and Under Armour is still testing whether measurements are good enough to offer similar color tracking on the Band. I would prefer that over a chest strap. (For now, Under Armour has earphones without the heart rate for $70 less.)

Also coming down the pike are shoes with built-in sensors for tracking runs. Ideally, these might let you ditch your phone and other GPS devices - at least so long as you hit a pace of 10 minutes per mile or faster. That's a high threshold for many recreational runners.

As a slowpoke, I got credit for only 14.3 of the 26.2 miles in a marathon. And it broke the marathon into two, possibly because I stopped midway to ride a roller coaster. (Hey, it's Disney!) That's one flaw with automated tracking. Normally, you can just hit pause and resume.

If you have the phone with you, the shoes work with the company's MapMyRun app to give steadier pace readings, as those based on GPS can be erratic. Under Armour is still working to get that data displayed on the Band.

THE APPS

The dashboard of the UA Record app is divided into four quadrants for sleep, calories, workouts and daily steps. A circle in the middle is for your weight—normally hidden so you can take screenshots to boast to your friends. While other fitness apps tend to make you fish around for information, the Record's quadrant design gives you a nice summary, and you can tap on any to dig deeper.

Even if you don't own any Under Armour gadgets, the free app will pull in data from Fitbit, Garmin, Jawbone and other accounts. You still need your device's app to sync data, though. And this could lead to double and triple counting your exercise totals.

The app is also supposed to tap IBM's Watson artificial-intelligence system to analyze your wellness patterns and make recommendations. Here, the "insights" I've gotten so far seem more like broad observations applicable to men in my age group than anything personalized. The company says personalization will come later.

For Under Armour to compete with more established gadget companies, including Fitbit, Garmin and Apple, its devices and apps need to do much more together than products that work individually. In my weeks of testing, I see the beginnings of how all this syncing can help. But it's just that for now—a beginning.

Off the Wall

AP

In this Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016 photo redfish are displayed at the Portland Fish Exchange in Portland, Maine.

Pass the dogfish nuggets?

Seafood industry rebrands 'trash'

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Call them fish sticks for millennials. At any rate, Dana Bartholomew is banking on college students warming up to "Sharck Bites."

Ipswich Shellfish, of Massachusetts, for which Bartholomew oversees sales, is offering that product—nuggets of dogfish coated in a gluten-free, allergen-friendly crust. Bartholomew, who believes so-called "trash fish" such as dogfish are part of the new wave in New England seafood, already has a couple of colleges on board.

Bartholomew's fondness for dogfish, a species East Coast fishermen catch millions of pounds of every year that sells for just pennies at the dock, is part of a growing trend in fish markets around the country. The industry is putting more emphasis on fish that have traditionally lacked market appeal or economic value as old staples—such as cod, tuna, haddock and shrimp—decline or become the subject of tougher fishing quotas.

"We know we have to make a great-tasting product that supports local fishermen, supports the local industry and economy," Bartholomew said. "And it's local—it's right here."

New England's traditional food fish has long been the Atlantic cod, but it has faded in the face of overfishing and environmental changes. Restaurant owners, fishermen and food processing companies said a growing shift to other species is helping to fill that void. Catch of species such as spiny dogfish, Acadian redfish and scup have all increased dramatically since 10 years ago as cod has fallen.

The shift toward trash fish reflects a broader trend in U.S. seafood toward species that are more abundant. Florida fishing regulators, for instance, have incentivized the hunt for invasive lionfish, which many view as pests. Elsewhere, the Jonah crab has also found acceptance as an alternative to the West Coast's popular Dungeness crab.

The evolution of food from trash to delicacy goes back centuries. Many species have overcome an ugly name or gruesome appearance to grow in value. Lobster, for instance, was long ago regarded as food fit only for the lower classes.

Creating a market for underutilized fish species is important in New England today because of warming waters and corresponding changes in fish populations, said Melissa Bouchard, chef at the popular DiMillo's On The Water restaurant in Portland.

"We're trying to get the focus off of cod and haddock and Northern shrimp and bring to light all these species in the Gulf of Maine that are delicious and abundant," Bouchard said.

She served dogfish tacos at a festival in food-crazy Portland and they were well received, she said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Utah man faces insurance fraud charges after 23 car crashes

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah officials say a man accused of getting himself into almost two dozen car crashes to collect insurance money has been charged with fraud. Navid Monjazeb was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with 12 counts of insurance fraud. Authorities say he collected over $55,000 from insurance carriers over five years. Armand Glick with the Utah Insurance Department's fraud division says those charges came in cases where investigators could show the car was damaged before the crash. Monjazeb was also charged with pattern of unlawful activity, two counts of forgery and seven counts of reckless endangerment.

Baby fur seal found in bushes at California business park

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP)—An emaciated baby northern fur seal is recovering after it was found in some bushes at a San Francisco Bay Area business park, his second escape attempt in just a few months. Hayward police said on the department's Facebook page that the dehydrated and malnourished seal was found after someone called about the pup around 6 a.m. Wednesday. Police say the seal—somehow—got out of the water, crossed busy Interstate 880 and found its way to the bushes. Police at first thought the caller was mistaken and the furry fellow was really just a "possum or a weird cat." Police called the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. Center spokeswoman Laura Sherr confirmed to KNTV that her team picked up the animal, which they hope to nourish and send back into the wild as soon as possible.

Spanish town celebrates bizarre, turnip-throwing festival

PIORNAL, Spain (AP)—Hundreds of people have been running through the streets of a tiny town in southwestern Spain, chasing a fancy-dressed, beast-like figure and pelting it with turnips. The event Wednesday was part of the bizarre 'Jarramplas' festival which is held in Piornal each Jan 19-20. Following the yearly tradition, a town volunteer donned a costume of multicolored ribbons and a protective devilish mask with horns. He then charged through the streets, beating a drum until he couldn't stand the punishment anymore. Local farmers supplied some 18 tons of turnips for the festival. Its origins are uncertain but the local tourism office says the 'Jarramplas' figure represents a cattle thief. Others say it has religious roots. The festival finished later Wednesday with musical and gastronomic celebrations.

Life & Style

Star Wars: Episode VIII' release delayed to Dec. 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—There is a disturbance in the force. The release of "Star Wars: Episode VIII" has been delayed from May 2017 to Dec. 15, 2017, the Walt Disney Co. announced Wednesday. The date change postpones the next "Star Wars" installment set to follow the box-office hit "The Force Awakens."

AP

This photo provided by Disney shows Daisey Ridley as Rey, left, and John Boyega as Finn, in a scene from the new film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," directed by J.J. Abrams.

Though "Star Wars" was once synonymous with the summer blockbuster, the date change means that the franchise will again look to dominate movie theaters in the holiday season. It has proven a lucrative match for "The Force Awakens," which has made a record $861 million domestically and $1.88 billion globally in five weeks of release.

Disney offered no reason for the delay, but rumors have recently swirled that writer-director Rian Johnson ("Looper"), who is taking over for J.J. Abrams, is rewriting the script. Production is set to begin next month in London.

In the interim, Gareth Edwards' "Star Wars" spin-off "Rogue One" is due out Dec. 16 this year.

With prominent release dates now staked out by studios years in advance for their largest franchises, the impact of the switch immediately caused ripples.

The new date sets up a potential but unlikely head-to-head between "Star Wars" and "Avatar." James Cameron's "Avatar 2" had been planned for Christmas 2017, though few expect 20th Century Fox to hit that date with the much-delayed "Avatar" sequel. A spokesman for Fox didn't immediately respond to an email Wednesday.

One movie definitely affected is Steven Spielberg's "Ready Player One," a science-fiction release for Warner Bros. It's scheduled for the same Dec. 15 weekend in 2017.

Disney moved one of its other billion-dollar franchises, "Pirates of the Caribbean," to May 26, 2017. The Johnny Depp series returns with "Dead Men Tell No Tales."

At the same time, Sony Pictures moved two of its biggest movies into summer 2017. The next "Spider-Man," starring Tom Holland and directed by Jon Watts, shifted up three weeks to July 28, 2017. Jake Kasdan's "Jumanji" remake shifted from Christmas 2016 to July 28, 2017.

Scully, Mulder, paranoia return in 'The X-Files' reboot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The X-Files" creator Chris Carter is pleased to update the original template with his 21st-century unease. Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny are glad to be playing opposite each other again as Scully and Mulder.

AP

This photo provided by FOX shows, David Duchovny, left, as Fox Mulder and Gillian Anderson as Dana Scully in the "Founder's Mutation" season premiere, part two, episode of "The X-Files," airing Monday, Jan. 25, 2016, 8:00-9:00 PM ET/PT on FOX.

And admirers likely will do a happy dance to the Fox TV drama's eerie theme music as it returns with a six-episode limited run.

The two-part opener is scheduled to air at 10 p.m. EST Sunday, immediately after the end of the NFL's NFC championship game on Fox, and at 8 p.m. EST Monday. Subsequent episodes also air at 8 p.m. Monday EST.

Will the reboot retain the dark magic of the original TV series, which in its 1993-2002 lifespan offered a wildly entertaining blend of government conspiracies, otherworldly suspense and black comedy that was placed in the hands of two unknown but charismatic actors?

Creator and executive producer Carter offers assurances, but with the caveat that he insisted on more than an exercise in nostalgia for the franchise that included two big-screen movies.

"Someone said to me, 'Great, a victory lap,'" when the new project was announced, he said. "That's the opposite of why we came back. We didn't want to do something that reworked old material or was just a sequel to what we'd done before. I wanted to make something fresh and original."

Current events and figures proved helpful, Carter said, citing National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and eroding personal privacy as examples.

"These are interesting and heady times, and perfect for telling 'X-Files' tales," he said, promising a series more directly topical than the original. "We deal with fear in a lot of different ways. ... The fact that we're being spied on and don't seem to be raising any protest is a frightening prospect for me."

One tricky aspect is balancing the interests of "X-Files" devotees and potential newcomers.

"We have to be respectful of people who are familiar with the show so we don't beat them over the head with things they know," Carter said. "I think our approach is artful in what it gives fans and what it will provide non-fans."

He's joined in the cause by members of the creative team that helped make the first series a sensation, with Darin Morgan, Glen Morgan and James Wong splitting writing and directing duties with Carter on the new episodes.

Also back are Mitch Pileggi, who played FBI assistant director Walter Skinner in the original series; William B. Davis as the shadowy Cigarette Smoking Man; and, despite their deaths, the beloved conspiracy-theory geeks known collectively as the Lone Gunmen.

"No one is every truly dead on 'The X-Files,'" Carter said, drolly.

Newcomer Joel McHale is onboard as Tad O'Malley, a news anchor.

In the first go-round, FBI agent Fox Mulder was driven to prove the government was hiding evidence of aliens on Earth. Fellow agent Dana Scully was his initially skeptical colleague.

In the reboot, new evidence reunites them in the quest to uncover the truth. It's personal as well, Anderson said.

"There's something that's missing in Scully's life, and that thing is clearly Mulder. Both of them feel disconnected from the world and themselves because they're missing a limb," she said.

She and Duchovny have moved on to a variety of on-screen and other projects, including writing (both have published novels), and, in Duchovny's case, music. But they said returning to the "X-Files" fold, with Carter again in charge, felt right.

"Chris is a serious person and an artist. And if he says he's got a way to make it work, I trust that," Duchovny said.

Said Anderson: "There were aspects of it that felt ridiculously familiar and kind of felt we never left. Some elements were much more challenging—running in heels," she added, laughing.

Last summer's taping in Vancouver, Canada, was arranged around her London-based family life. But she brought part of it with her: daughter Piper, who is studying production design, was on the set to gain work experience and ended up contributing to the series, Anderson said.

Whatever work-related tension that existed between the stars, the by-product of churning out some two-dozen episodes a season and becoming instant stars, is long gone, Duchovny said.

"Put any human being in that situation, working the amount that we worked and going through the ride from obscurity to global (fame), it's just crazy-making," he said. "It's a natural human emotion to have enough of one another in that situation. Now it's quite the opposite, it's respect and love and gratitude."

Pinkett Smith says Oscars backlash not really about Oscars

AP

In this Feb. 24, 2015 file photo, Jada Pinkett Smith arrives at the world premiere of "Focus" at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jada Pinkett Smith says the backlash to the all-white acting nominees for the Academy Awards "isn't really about the Oscars."

Pinkett Smith on Monday said she wouldn't attend or watch the Feb. 28 ceremony. A video she posted helped prompt calls for a boycott of the awards show.

In another video posted Wednesday by "Entertainment Tonight" she says, "This whole Oscar controversy isn't really about the Oscars."

Pinkett Smith says her plea was about black people taking back their power in an industry that doesn't value people of color.

Pinkett Smith on Tuesday thanked the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and its president for promptly responding to the outcry. Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs has pledged "dramatic changes" to diversify the academy's membership.

John Legend, Colombian star Juanes perform outside jail

ELOY, Ariz. (AP)—Colombian musician Juanes and singer John Legend met immigrants at a jail in Arizona on Wednesday before performing for a small crowd outside the facility to draw attention to immigration and mass incarceration.

The Grammy winners each played two songs separately and one together—Bob Marley's "Redemption Song"—as dozens of people sang along in Eloy, about 60 miles southeast of Phoenix.

"The reason why we're here, one, is because we want to bear witness to what's happening so we could tell the world about it," Legend said to the cheering crowd.

Juanes played the guitar and Legend the piano atop a flatbed truck parked across the street from the federal detention center. An empty desert field served as the backdrop while people in the crowd held large signs and chanted "Not one more deportation" and "Si se puede," meaning "Yes we can."

The concert was staged for an audience made up primarily of activists brought there by an advocacy group, along with some relatives of detainees. The concert was also filmed by a camera crew for a documentary and a broadcast of the performance on "Good Morning America."

The performers' original intention was for the detainees to hear the music. But organizers were told the inmates were not let out of their cells to hear the concert.

Earlier, Juanes and Legend took a tour of the detention center and spoke to detainees inside.

Juanes said in Spanish that he was "heartbroken" by what he saw.

"It's very hard to understand that someone is deprived of their freedom unjustly, and that's why we're here with our music, with our culture, which is the strongest tool to bring attention and give a voice to those who don't have one," he said.

AP

John Legend, left, and Colombian rock star Juanes arrive to perform in front of a detention center in Eloy, Arizona, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016.

Legend said the immigrants have gone through a great deal of hardship.

"It's life and death for a lot of people, a lot of people that come here, come through a lot of hardship, physically is very difficult to get there, and then every day that you're here as an undocumented immigrant you're in danger of being detained again, having your employer being raided, being separated from your family," he said at a different event Wednesday. "They go through much difficulty here to live the American dream to be able to work and feed their family, but also to live freely."

Maria Gomez, of Phoenix, said the singers' visit will let immigrants know that people care about them. The 16-year-old said her brother and other relatives are being held in Eloy after traveling from Mexico City to Nogales, Arizona, where they sought asylum. Gomez said her family had been victims of kidnappings for ransom.

"It's something very special because not any artist would do this," Gomez said.

Mark Wahlberg, Massachusetts governor meet to discuss film

BOSTON (AP)—Mark Wahlberg and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker have met to discuss a film the actor is working on.

An aide for the Republican governor says the two met briefly on Wednesday to "have a friendly talk" about an upcoming movie.

The aide didn't specify which movie, but the Oscar-nominated actor is working on a feature film about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Wahlberg announced in 2014 he was seeking a pardon from Massachusetts for violent assaults he committed as a teen in his native Boston.

In one incident, Wahlberg, then 16, attacked two Vietnamese men while trying to steal beer near his home in the city's Dorchester neighborhood in 1988.

Baker has the ultimate authority to grand pardons.

Baker's aide says Wahlberg's pardon request did not come up Wednesday.

Prosecutor: Cosby wants special treatment, case should go on

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Prosecutors pursuing sex-assault charges against Bill Cosby say he wants special treatment in trying to have the case thrown out even before the first evidence hearing.

In a response to Cosby's motion to dismiss the case, suburban Philadelphia prosecutors alleged that Cosby may have been "committing similar crimes for decades and getting away with it, all over the country, using his celebrity and fortune to avoid the consequences."

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele also said Wednesday that there was no valid agreement to never prosecute the comedian, as a former prosecutor claimed. Former District Attorney Bruce Castor is expected to testify next month for the defense that he made the deal to persuade Cosby to testify in the accuser's 2005 civil lawsuit.

Common Pleas Judge Steven O'Neill has scheduled a Feb. 2 hearing on the defense motion to dismiss the criminal case. Cosby has not yet entered a plea, and his lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment Wednesday. In his deposition, Cosby called his feelings toward the accuser "romantic" and their encounter that night in January 2004 consensual.

Steele argued that Castor maintains he granted Cosby immunity "via a press release," but said that fell far short of a court-approved immunity agreement. He noted that the press release quoted Castor as saying he could revisit the decision later if the need arose.

AP

In this Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015 photo Bill Cosby, center, accompanied by his attorneys Brian McMonagle, left, and Monique Pressley, arrives at court to face a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault, in Elkins Park, Pa.

Travelers want to be greeted by bestfriend at trip's end

DEAR ABBY: We recently lost our dog, a 13-year-old springer spaniel, to old age. His passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and lives. We miss his companionship, his personality and the structure that caring for him brought to our lives. We're 51 and 60, own our home and are financially secure.

Some of our friends are discouraging us from adopting another dog. They say we travel too much. Last year we spent 12 weeks away from home. When we travel, we hire a trusted pet sitter to move into the house and attend to all our dog's needs. Our pet always seemed happy and healthy when we returned.

I anticipate that we will continue to travel a similar amount in the future, but I'm not sure we will enjoy coming home to a house that has no dog to welcome us back. Abby, should a retired couple who travels adopt a dog?

PET LOVER IN MEXICO

DEAR PET LOVER: At ages 51 and 60, if you and your husband are in good health, I see no reason why you shouldn't adopt another dog if you wish. Consider adopting one that is no longer a puppy. Shelters and rescue organizations are good places to adopt an older dog that needs a loving home.

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor complains of cars honking at 8 in the morning. I have done this only three times when I have taken my son to school. I wait in the car for him, but if he's late by a couple of minutes, I'll honk.

The neighbors think it's rude because they have a 3-year-old who's asleep at that time. Do I confront them? What do you suggest?

ON A SCHEDULE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ON A SCHEDULE: Knowing it will awaken your neighbor's child, refrain from honking the horn. If you need your son to hurry up, use your cellphone and call the house. Or, turn your engine off, lock the car and go inside and get him.

DEAR ABBY: My friend of 25 years, "Violet," moved back to town a few months ago after living far away for the last 10 years. Whereas we've always called and confided in each other often, now that she's here, I rarely see her, never talk with her and receive polite but curt refusals to do anything together.

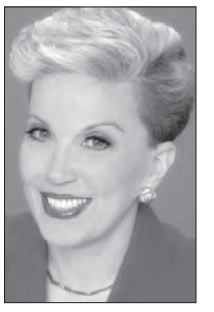
I know the move was stressful for her, and I suspect the problem is more about her than me. But I am really hurt, and I miss her. My last request to get together and talk was met with, "I'm only doing what I feel I can enjoy and manage." It seems like that doesn't include our friendship.

Should I simply leave my old friend alone, or is there something you can suggest?

JUST PLAIN SAD

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SAD: Write Violet a short, sweet note. Tell her that you care about her, have always treasured her friendship and hope it will continue. Let her know that when she feels like talking, you will be there for her. It's really all you can do at this point.

After that, the ball will be in her court and you should NOT sit by the phone waiting for a call. Go on with your life and your other friendships as before. If she responds, terrific. If not, it will be her loss. Do not make it yours.

** **

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

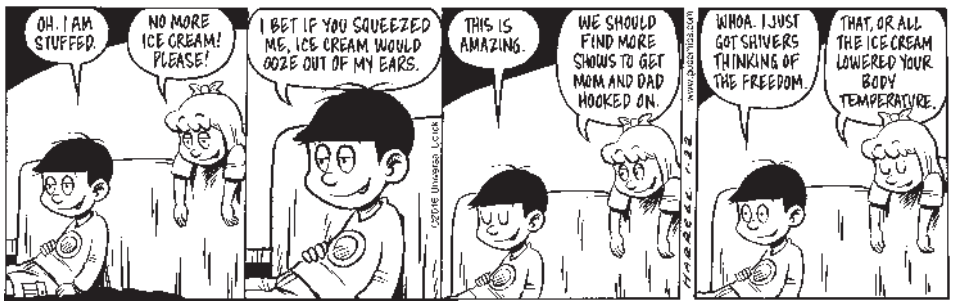
DO YOU KNOW WHERE BABIES COME FROM?
NOPE.
WELL, I WONDER HOW ONE FINDS OUT!
...HERE, LET ME SEE THE BACK OF YOUR SHIRT.
YOU CAME FROM TAIWAN.
1/22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OH. I AM STUFFED.
NO MORE ICE CREAM! PLEASE!
I BET IF YOU SQUEEZED ME, ICE CREAM WOULD OOZE OUT OF MY EARS.
THIS IS AMAZING.
WE SHOULD FIND MORE SHOWS TO GET MOM AND DAD HOOKED ON.
WHOA. I JUST GOT SHIVERS THINKING OF THE FREEDOM.
THAT, OR ALL THE ICE CREAM LOWERED YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Drifts, as smoke
6 German "A"
9 Owns
12 "Stormy Weather" composer
13 Gun org.
14 "Ick!"
15 Icy look
16 New Jersey resort
18 Free of charge
20 Train track
21 Irate
23 Relatives
24 Brice of "Funny Girl"
25 Wings
27 Odor detectors
29 Caribbean's — Islands
31 Montreal's province
35 Louisiana waterway
37 Info
38 Singer Shore
41 Baby goat
43 Matching pair
44 Finished
45 French Mrs.
47 Ship's hospital
49 Lassoes
52 Toon shriek
53 Pub order
54 Garbage
55 Draft org.
56 Pepper color
57 Flair

DOWN
1 Used to be
2 Museum focus
3 June 14
4 Region (Abbr.)
5 Sly person
6 Los Angeles district
7 Nest eggs, briefly
8 Snooze
9 Mortal
10 Once more
11 In a timid way
17 Deleted
19 Metallic-sounding
21 Fella
22 Carte lead-in
24 Pot-au- — (French stew)
26 Go aboard
28 Ink squirter
30 Sound of relief
32 Pre-overtime wages
33 Gigi's summer
34 Angora, e.g.
36 Approved
38 Rx amounts
39 Yale, Brown, etc.
40 Bottle parts
42 Dodge cars
45 Guy
46 Satiric Sahl
48 Soap unit
50 Immigrant's subj.
51 Boat, to a captain

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	A	T	S		W	A	G		O	B	I	S
H		C	I		I	L	L		N	A	D	A
O	R	M	E		S	⁻	J		S	L	E	W
S	E	S	A	M	E		M	A	P	L	E	S
			M	A	A			D	E	Y		
A	S	H	Y		C	H	O	O	C		H	O
C	O	C			R	E	B				C	W
H	O	C	S	I	L	R	S		P	D	N	D
		L	A	S			T	R	A			
E	N	I	G	M	A			A	N	G	O	R
L	O	G	E			P	H	C			O	R
E	T	A	L			S	O	L			D	A
M	A	N	Y			E	R	E			A	L

Yesterday's answer 1-22

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23				■	24			
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55				56				57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Balthazar Getty, 41; Guy Fieri, 48; Diane Lane, 51; John Hurt, 76.

Happy Birthday: Keep personal information a secret this year. The less you share, the better. Focus on how you can develop your skills and update your qualifications. Avoid debates with or being around people who are opinionated and negative. Forward-thinking coupled with quiet pursuits will help you manage your responsibilities and reach your goals. Your numbers are 2, 10, 17, 21, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't give in to emotional manipulation at home or at work. Be straightforward about what you will and will not do. Anger never solves anything, but honesty, compromises and reasonable solutions do. Leave time for romance, as it will ease your stress. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll be able to make a difference if you pitch in and help a cause that concerns you. A friend or relative will appreciate your input regarding an inevitable change to your plans. A job opening will grab your interest. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let anyone interfere in your life. Concentrate on what you can do to live a healthier lifestyle. Set up a routine and stick to it, and you will be happy with the results you achieve. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Express your ideas and use your imagination and you will come up with some good ideas that will improve your current living arrangements. Making minor adjustments will encourage you to get back to the things you enjoy doing most. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Follow through with your plans regardless of someone else's uncertainty. It's important not to let anyone dictate what you can do. Anger is a waste of time, so do your best to stay calm and enjoy whatever you do. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Speak up if something is bothering you, and settle any unfinished business as quickly as possible. Once you have a clear passage, you will be able to relax and enjoy getting together with friends who enjoy the same things as you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Check out the job market. An interesting position should be considered, and your resume revamped to suit the qualifications needed to get you where you want to go. A change will do you good and help you resolve pending problems. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Whether you upgrade your home or put more time, money and effort into yourself, the benefits will be substantial. Your negotiating skills will help you get what you want. Sign contracts and tie up any legal or financial matters. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Review any pending documents to ensure that you haven't overlooked an important detail. You can make positive changes at home, but before you move forward, make sure you have approval from anyone affected by your choices. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Speak from the heart. A deal you have been working on will turn in your favor if you are innovative in the way you present your intentions. Romance is highlighted, and a commitment will lead to a brighter future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your eagerness to help others must not come at the expense of your health. Someone who loves you will come to your aid if you share your feelings and your plans to make your life easier. You don't have to go it alone. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take time out to do the things that will bring you the most in return, whether it's improving your appearance or your professional qualifications. Financial gain will come from an unusual and unexpected source. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are perceptive, energetic and responsible. You are resourceful and insightful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		9		4		
	3		6		5		8	
9								2
	6			1			7	
3								4
	8			2			1	
7								6
	5		9		7		2	
		6		5		8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	8	2	5	9	6	4	1
2	5	6	4	1	3	7	9	8
4	9	1	6	7	8	5	2	3
1	7	9	5	4	2	8	3	6
3	4	2	8	6	7	1	5	9
8	6	5	3	9	1	4	7	2
9	8	4	1	3	5	2	6	7
5	1	7	9	2	6	3	8	4
6	2	3	7	8	4	9	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JENNIFER ANISTON TIED THE KNOT! Solution: 10 letters

S	C	U	E	C	N	A	D	C	S	N	A	L	P	C
E	A	N	L	I	S	A	S	W	O	V	C	I	S	U
C	K	E	E	S	T	S	E	U	G	X	T	E	S	M
R	E	M	M	U	S	C	C	K	U	D	R	O	W	M
E	L	O	O	M	G	R	O	O	M	E	E	N	H	I
T	A	O	H	J	A	S	R	U	N	N	S	A	Y	N
N	M	L	N	U	A	E	U	E	P	A	S	M	E	G
U	R	B	O	S	H	S	G	R	D	L	C	E	K	S
L	O	O	I	T	D	E	O	E	P	I	E	T	W	S
B	F	D	T	I	D	Ⓡ	Ⓘ	Ⓝ	Ⓖ	R	R	A	O	E
Y	A	N	P	N	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B	L	R
L	M	A	E	F	I	W	L	A	U	G	U	S	T	D
I	I	L	C	O	U	R	T	N	E	Y	L	L	E	B
M	L	R	E	I	O	F	F	I	C	I	A	T	E	D
E	Y	O	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	S	O	N	E	R

©2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/22

Actor, Actress, August, Bateman, Bell, Birthday, Bride, Cake, Couple, Courtney, Cox, Cummings, Dance, Dress, Ellen DeGeneres, Emily Blunt, Family, Formal, Groom, Guests, Home, Jason, Justin, Kudrow, Lisa, Low-key, Menu, Music, Officiated, Orlando Bloom, Plans, Reception, Richardson, Ring, Secret, Sia, Summer, Surprised, Theroux, Vows, Wife

Yesterday's Answer: Nine Eyes

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Manager: $1,200-$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree & 3 years management experience required. Email resume to yangmoon@hanmisaipan.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Administrative Assistant
$6.05 per hour. With 2 years experience
Can speak English, Korean and Chinese

Green Corporation
yum0821@hotmail.com

USED GUNS WANTED
looking to buy functional used guns, good conditions and registered; mini-14, 22 caliber, 41OS.

Please call 483-5155

Backhoe for Rent
For inquiries, please call **285-0478**
- Security Services
- General Help Supply Services
- Heavy Equipment Rental
- Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper:
Call 235-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE
(1) TRAVEL AGENT
with 3 years experience
Submit resume to:
INTER-KAM TRAVEL AGENCY
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 / 235-8888

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Saipan Office Manager – Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.
Email resumes to **lozaki@micronesiarenewableenergy.com**

Job Description
This position is responsible for successfully leading, managing and growing MRE's residential Sunnova program in Saipan and the CNMI. The Office Manager will demonstrate a combination of entrepreneurial spirit and strong leadership, and possess the ability to optimize processes and people to achieve maximum profitability and Sales quotas for Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.

The ideal candidate will be experienced in handling a wide range of administrative and executive support related tasks and will be able to work independently with little or no supervision. This person must be exceedingly well organized, flexible and enjoy the administrative challenges of supporting an office of diverse people and positions.

Responsibilities
- Serve as the point person for maintenance, mailing, shopping, supplies, equipment, bills and errands
- Organize and schedule meetings and appointments
- Partner with HR to maintain office policies as necessary
- Organize office operations and procedures
- Coordinate with IT department on all office equipment
- Manage relationships with vendors, service providers, and landlord, ensuring that all items are invoiced and paid on time
- Manage contract and price negotiations with office vendors, service providers and office lease
- Manage office G&A budget, ensure accurate and timely reporting
- Provide general support to visitors

Requirements
- Proven office management, administrative or assistant experience
- Knowledge of office management systems and procedures
- Excellent time management skills and ability to multi-task and prioritize work
- Attention to detail and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and planning skills
- Proficiency in MS Office

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
Immediate position available for

ACCOUNTANT

Triple J Saipan Inc. is looking for individuals with:

- **A bachelor's degree in accounting or its equivalent**
- **Minimum of three (3) years experience in the preparation of financial statements**
- **Strong computer proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word (knowledge in Quickbooks or similar accounting software a plus) and**
- **Strong communication skills**

Candidates must also be willing to work flexible hours under minimal supervision.

Please drop off your resume at
Triple J Corporate Office,
Ground Floor, Former Silver Hotel,
Brigida St., Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa
from Monday through Friday, 9:00AM-12:00 noon.
No phone calls please.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

SPORTS
from flab to fab
FAMILIES THAT MAKE SPORTS A FAMILY AFFAIR
JOEL FRUIT+ FREESTYLE SOCCER
10 TIPS TO BEAT THE HOLIDAY BELLY BULGE
THE 5 PRINCIPLES OF FAT LOSS
BRING THE GYM TO YOUR GARAGE

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*.
Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: Bridge of Sighs

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

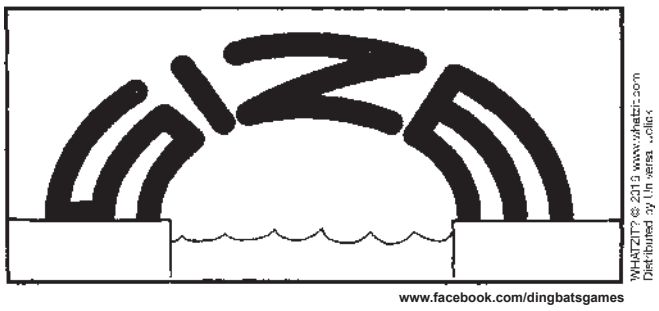
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Love helps Cavaliers bounce back in romp

AP
Brooklyn Nets guard Markel Brown (22) defends Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)— There's only one direction to go when you've been floored.

"It's painful to get knocked down, but it's shameful not to get back up if you get knocked down," Cleveland coach David Blatt said.

The Cavaliers did Wednesday, with Kevin Love collecting 17 points and 18 rebounds to help them bounce back from their embarrassing performance against Golden State with a 91-78 victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

LeBron James also had 17 points and neither forward played in the fourth quarter, a welcome rest with a home game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday.

More importantly for the Cavs, it was a welcome performance after they were crushed 132-98 on Monday in the NBA Finals rematch.

"I think tonight it was very easy to look each other in the face and know that we got better tonight," James said.

Love had only three points and six rebounds Monday, renewing questions about his role with the Cavs in his second season in Cleveland. But he would fit with the Cavs or any other team the way he played Wednesday, controlling the defensive backboards—all of his rebounds were on that end -- while shooting 5 for 10 from the field.

"You've got to respond after a tough game like the other night," Love said. "I wasn't the only one, I felt a lot of guys played with more energy and brought it, but there's really only one way you could go from the last game I had."

James had only one rebound and played just 29 minutes, but a couple of his powerful dunks in the first quarter showed the Cavs were more ready at the start than they were Monday.

Pistons 123, Rockets 114

In Houston, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Marcus Morris each scored 22 points and Detroit beat Houston despite Andre Drummond setting an NBA record by missing 23 free throws.

Drummond set a career high and franchise record by attempting 36 free throws on a night he was intentionally fouled 21 times. The previous record for most misses was 22, set by Wilt Chamberlain on Dec. 1, 1967.

The Hack-A-Shaq tactic allowed the Rockets to take the lead in the third quarter when they did it 12 straight times, but it didn't help them close the gap in the fourth when Drummond went out for good with 5 1/2 minutes left after seven hacks in the quarter and Detroit leading 107-94.

James Harden had his first triple-double of the season and seventh of his career with 33 points, a career-high 17 rebounds and 14 assists in the loss.

Drummond finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Warriors 125, Bulls 94

In Chicago, Stephen Curry scored 25 points, and Golden State made it look easy again in beating Chicago.

Curry tied a season high with 11 assists and grabbed seven rebounds.

Klay Thompson added 20 points. Harrison Barnes scored 19, and the defending champions simply outclassed Chicago after embarrassing LeBron James and the Cavaliers in Cleveland on Monday night. The Warriors built a big lead in the first quarter and never were threatened after that, improving their league-best road record to 20-4.

Derrick Rose scored 29 and Jimmy Butler added 23 points.

Thunder 109, Hornets 95

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 26 points to help Oklahoma City beat Charlotte for its sixth straight win.

Russell Westbrook collected 16 points, 15 assists, eight rebounds and five steals in 27 minutes before sitting out the fourth quarter because the Thunder were in control.

Steven Adams had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who have won 21 of their past 25 games. Kyle Singler added a season-high 11 points.

Charlotte's Kemba Walker, who scored 52 points Monday in a win over Utah, led the Hornets with 21 points. Jeremy Lin scored 16 points.

Knicks 118, Jazz 111, OT

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 30 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, leading New York to an overtime victory over Utah.

Robin Lopez added 22 points and 12 rebounds for New York, which trailed by as many as 12 in the second half and by eight entering the fourth quarter. Derrick Williams scored 18 points, and rookie Kristaps Porzingis had 16.

Rodney Hood led Utah with 29 points, and Gordon Hayward finished with 27.

Mavericks 106, Timberwolves 94, OT

In Dallas, Chandler Parsons scored seven of his game-high 30 points in overtime as shorthanded Dallas rallied to beat Minnesota.

The Mavericks, playing without Dirk Nowitzki, shook off a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit and a career game from Timberwolves rookie Karl-Anthony Towns to win in their fourth consecutive overtime game at home.

After trailing for much of the second half, Dallas was never behind in overtime. Parsons hit the biggest shot of the extra period, a 3-pointer with 2:36 to play to give Dallas a 98-93 lead. With 1:25 to go, Devin Harris made a three-point play to extend the lead to eight.

With Nowitzki (right knee) and Kevin Garnett (rest) watching from their respective benches in suits, the 2015 first overall pick Towns had 27 points and career highs with 17 rebounds and six blocks for Minnesota. Andrew Wiggins added 23 points for the Wolves.

Wizards 106, Heat 87

In Washington, John Wall had 18 points and 10 assists and Bradley Beal added 18 more as Washington Wizards sent injury-ravaged Miami to its sixth loss in seven games.

Miami played without Dwyane Wade, who was scratched with shoulder soreness about a half-hour before the game. Halfway through the second quarter, starting center Hassan Whiteside abruptly fell to the floor and with a strained left oblique and did not return to the game.

Down to nine players, 33-year-old Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 11 points in 21 minutes -- six more than he had played in his previous 14 games this season.

Raptors 115, Celtics 109

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 34 points and Jonas Valanciunas had his eighth double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds as Toronto won its season-high sixth straight game.

Luis Scola chipped in with 18 points and Kyle Lowry added 14 for the Raptors.

Boston guard Isaiah Thomas had his fifth double-double of the season with 21 points and 10 assists. Avery Bradley added another 19 points for the Celtics.

Sixers 96, Magic 87

In Orlando, Jahlil Okafor scored 20 points, Ish Smith had 13 points and 11 assists and Philadelphia beat Orlando.

Hollis Thompson added 17 points and Isaiah Canaan scored 15 for Philadelphia, which has won two of three to get to six wins on the season.

Elfrid Payton led Orlando with 21 points and 10 assists, but the Magic were lethargic all night defensively and lost for the eighth time in nine games. Nikola Vucevic had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Tobias Harris added 15 points and 10 boards.

Mets and LHP Bastardo agree to $12M, 2-year deal

NEW YORK (AP)—A person familiar with the deal says free agent reliever Antonio Bastardo and the NL champion New York Mets have agreed to terms on a $12 million, two-year contract.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the deal is pending a physical and no announcement had been made.

Bastardo was 4-1 with a 2.98 ERA and one save in 66 games last season for Pittsburgh, helping the Pirates claim an NL wild card. The left-hander had 64 strikeouts and 26 walks in 57 1/3 innings.

In 2013, Bastardo was suspended 50 games by Major League Baseball as part of the Biogenesis drug case.

Coming off their first World Series appearance in 15 years, the Mets were looking to reinforce their bullpen after setup man Tyler Clippard became a free agent. Bastardo likely will team with right-hander Addison Reed to set up closer Jeurys Familia.

The 30-year-old Bastardo pitched for division rival Philadelphia from 2009-14. He is 24-19 with a 3.58 ERA and 12 saves in seven major league seasons. He's struggled with his control at times but has 388 strikeouts in 316 1/3 innings.

In San Diego, the Padres and Fernando Rodney have agreed to a one-year contract, pending a physical exam.

Rodney is expected to take over the closer's role vacated when Craig Kimbrel was traded to Boston.

Rodney, who turns 39 on March 18, split the 2015 season between Seattle and the Chicago Cubs. He's also pitched for Detroit, the Los Angeles Angels and Tampa Bay.

He was an All-Star for Tampa Bay in 2012, when he had 48 saves. He also had 48 saves for Seattle in 2014.

In Boston, Junichi Tazawa and the Red Sox have avoided salary arbitration, agreeing to a one-year contract worth $3,375,000.

As part of the agreement announced Wednesday, Tazawa could earn a $25,000 performance bonus for pitching in 70 games. The deal is not guaranteed.

The 29-year-old right-hander was 2-7 with three saves and a 4.14 ERA in 61 relief appearances last year, his third straight season with 60 games or more. He is 14-18 with four saves and a 3.47 ERA in 249 career big league games, including four starts.

After earning $2.25 million last year, Tazawa had asked for a raise to $4.15 million in arbitration and had been offered $2.7 million. The agreement was $50,000 below the midpoint.

Left-hander Robbie Ross is Boston's last player in arbitration.

Djokovic wins and again faces questions about match-fixing

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—For the second time in three days, Novak Djokovic won a match at the Australian Open and was confronted by questions about match-fixing in the sport.

The five-time champion had just beaten 19-year-old French wild-card entry Quentin Halys 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (3) in the second round on Wednesday night - his 34th win in his last 35 matches at Melbourne Park—when his news conference veered to questions about the issue that has overshadowed the start of the season's first major.

After his first-round win, on the day when the BBC and BuzzFeed News published reports alleging match-fixing had gone unchecked in tennis, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic recalled when a member of his support team was approached with an offer to throw a match in Russia in 2007. That approach didn't reach him directly, he said, and was rejected immediately.

After his second-round win, he was asked about an Italian newspaper report casting doubt over his performance in a match against Fabrice Santoro in Paris in 2007.

Djokovic said the speculation was getting out of control.

"What (is there) to say? I've lost that match. I don't know if you're trying to create a story about that match or for that matter any of the matches of the top players losing in the early rounds. I think it's just absurd," Djokovic said. "It's not true."

"My response is that there's always going to be, especially these days when there is a lot of speculation—this is now the main story in tennis, in sports world—there's going to be a lot of allegations," Djokovic said. "I said everything I needed to say two days ago. Until somebody comes out with the real proof and evidence, it's only a speculation for me."

Djokovic lost to Santoro 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Paris Masters indoor tournament in October 2007. Djokovic, who had two wisdom teeth removed after the Madrid Masters earlier that month, said after the loss to Santoro that he was not fully fit because he was still taking medication.

The BBC and BuzzFeed reports said 16 players had been repeatedly flagged to tennis authorities for suspicious performances, including a Grand Slam winner, and half of them were at this year's Australian Open.

Djokovic has said he didn't believe any elite players were involved. Roger Federer agreed, and said people making the accusations should name names.

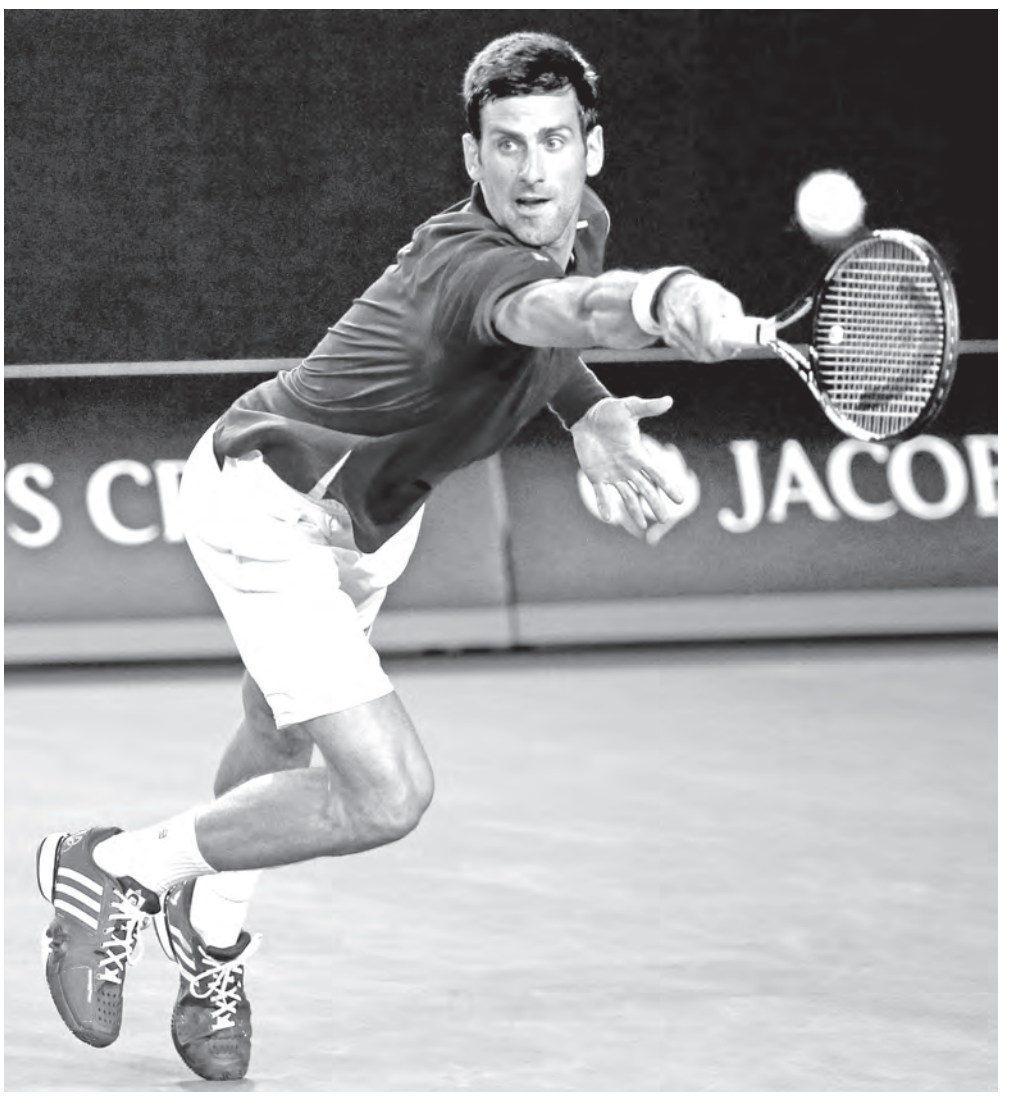
In other results, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga went to the aid of a ball girl in his match, gently helping her off the court in the third set when she became ill before finishing off a 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 win over Omar Jasika.

Other seeded players advancing included No. 6 Tomas Berdych, No. 7 Kei Nishikori and 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic.

Serena Williams set a record when she played her 79th main draw match at the Australian Open, and beat No. 90-ranked Hsieh Su-wei 6-1, 6-2.

''It all started here. This is where I played my first Grand Slam right on this court and I'm still going, it's such an honor," said Williams, a six-time champion who has a 70-9 record at Melbourne Park. ''I love it every time I come here."

In the biggest upset of the day, two-time Wimbledon champion and sixth-seeded Petra Kvitova was beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Russian-born Australian Daria Gavrilova.



AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia reaches for a backhand return to Quentin Halys of France during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday.

NFC showdown: Battle of Heisman-winning quarterbacks

NORTH CAROLINA (AP)—Carson Palmer helplessly watched the Carolina Panthers force the Arizona Cardinals and their third-string quarterback into the worst offensive performance in playoff history last January.

It was a dark moment for the injured Palmer, whose competitive drive once led him to threaten retirement if he wasn't traded from a team he didn't feel could contend. He waited 12 years for the first playoff victory of his career and now gets a chance to go head-to-head with Cam Newton, whose MVP-caliber season has the Panthers on the brink of running the table at home.

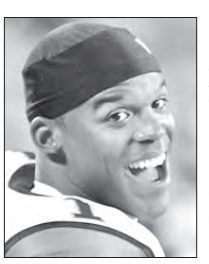
Sunday night's NFC Championship game will be the first-ever meeting between Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks in the playoffs, with the winner carrying his franchise to its second Super Bowl appearance.

Palmer won all six of his starts for the Cardinals in 2014 but missed three games early in the season with a right shoulder injury and the final part after tearing his ACL. Arizona limped into the playoffs at 11-5 before the 7-8-1 Panthers held the Cardinals to a playoff-record low 78 total yards in a 27-16 victory.

Playing in all 16 regular-season games this time, Palmer finished with career highs of 35 touchdown passes and a 104.6 passer rating in guiding Arizona (14-3) to a league-high 408.3 yards per game and the NFC West title. He tossed three TDs in last week's wild 26-20 divisional playoff win over Green Bay, and hit Larry Fitzgerald on a 75-yard catch-and-run to set up a shovel pass to Fitzgerald that won it three plays into overtime.

It was a gratifying victory for Palmer, who won the Heisman at Southern California in 2002 and demanded a trade from Cincinnati after a disappointing 2010 season.

Palmer


Newton

Palmer's right index finger injury—one he says isn't an issue - pales in comparison to the one that kept him out of last year's playoff meeting. Now he's hoping to help avenge that defeat and bring the Cardinals to their first Super Bowl since they lost to Pittsburgh after the 2008 season.

"As I haven't been playing in these games, I've studied it and watched it from afar and gone through it mentally," Palmer said. "As big as this game is, you can't make it bigger than it is. It's win or go home and there's plenty of implications, but we've got a pretty good recipe that wins games and we're going to stick with that recipe."

Carolina (16-1) has become a different team with the emergence of Newton. The Panthers, often known for their defense under coach Ron Rivera, averaged an NFL-high 31.3 points to rank just ahead of Arizona's 30.6.

SIDEBAR

Bills hire NFL's first full-time female assistant coach

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The NFL has its first full-time female coach.

Kathryn Smith was promoted by the Buffalo Bills on Wednesday night to take over as special teams quality control coach on Rex Ryan's staff.

She will assist special teams coordinator Danny Crossman and his assistant Eric Smith, filling the role that opened after Michael Hamlin was not retained following the season.

Smith's appointment comes after Jen Welter served a six-week training camp internship last summer coaching inside linebackers for the Arizona Cardinals.

Smith is well-known within the Bills staff after spending this season as an administrative assistant for the team's assistant coaches. She spent the past seven years working alongside Ryan.

She was the New York Jets player personnel assistant when Ryan took over as coach in 2009. Smith then served as Ryan's assistant in 2014, his final year in New York before he was fired and then hired by the Bills.

"She certainly deserves this promotion based on her knowledge and strong commitment, just to name a couple of her outstanding qualities," Ryan said in a statement released by the team. "She has proven that she's ready for the next step, so I'm excited and proud for her with this opportunity."

Bills offensive lineman Richie Incognito expressed his support for Smith in a tweet.

"Congrats Kathryn!! I know you will do a great job," Incognito said in a post that included a thumb's up and smiley face.

This is not the first time the Bills broke the gender barrier. Linda Bogdan, in 1986, became the NFL's first female scout, when she joined the team's player personnel department. Bogdan, who died in 2009, was the daughter of late Bills Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson.

Renamed cage group releases schedule for first quarter

The CNMI's newly reorganized basketball group, the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation (formerly Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands) is proud to release its proposed events for the first quarter of 2015. In anticipation of the upcoming 17 under and Open Micronesian basketball tournament this summer, the following leagues and events have been proposed: Island-wide Men's and Women's league; Inter-Government/Business league; Francisco M. Diaz Memorial youth league; Annual Settsu / Marianas Friendship tournament; FIBA 33: 3 on 3 tournament; and the Men's and Women's National and Junior national development program.

An organizational meeting is set for the mentioned leagues. The Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth league meeting is scheduled on Jan. 25 at pm at the Gilbert C. Ada conference room and the competition is open to players in the U15, U18, and U21 age groups. The Island-wide open men's and women's league Inter-Government/Business league meeting is slated on Jan. 27 at 6pm also at the Ada conference room.

For additional information and other upcoming MIBF events, contact Elias Rangamar at 287-6347 or email at eli_rang@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

KWON

From Page 32

ter wasting a 25-point advantage in the first quarter, 34-9. Incidentally, it was also Kwon who helped Joeten stun Tan Holdings in the opening canto, as he knocked in 13 points in the first 10 minutes of play. He nearly doubled up Tan Holdings' output as the top-ranked squad was held to four field goals in the first frame.

Tan Holdings then fought back in the second quarter, as it duplicated Joeten's first-quarter production to move within 8 at the break, 43-51. Esdrelon led Tan Holdings' comeback bid, firing 11 points in the second canto, while Nonato and Richard Kim combined for 15.

Kwon, after an explosive first quarter, was limited to two field goals in the second and went scoreless in the third, which ended with Tan Holdings bringing the deficit down to 3, 64-67. Tan Holdings continued to threaten Joeten in the third canto despite missing Matt Duenas, who was called for his fifth foul midway in that period.

A quick 4-0 scoring run less than a minute into the fourth frame off Jarett Matsutaro's banked shot and Paul Quizon's baseline jumper put Tan Holdings on top for the first time, 68-67, but Kwon answered with an and-1 play to give the lead back to Joeten, 70-68.

It was a seesaw battle in the next five minutes and change before Joeten managed to gain cushion, 80-75, after Kwon knocked in one of his last three baskets, down to the last 2:05 of the match.

Tan Holdings then moved within 1, 79-80, off Elmer Esdrelon's four free throws. His last two charities came from Alex Lauron's foul and the former had to leave the court due to five fouls. Later, an Esdrelon feed to Kim resulted in the latter's point-blanked shot and Tan Holdings' lead, 81-80.

However, Kwon countered with a fastbreak layup. Esdrelon tried to retaliate on the other end, but threw a wayward shot against two Joeten defenders. Fortunately, Nonato was there to recover the ball and was fouled by Sambile on his way for an undergoal stab.

Nonato took a few minutes before stepping into the foul line due to cramps and his body English worked a bit when his first free throw rimmed back in. He was not that lucky in the second attempt, while Quan and Kwon teamed up in the ensuing play for the most important basket in Game 2.

Kwon scored a game-high 31 points for Joeten, which drew 24 markers from Lauron. Esdrelon paced Tan Holdings with his 25 markers, while Nonato added 15.

Meanwhile, McDonald's claimed the third place trophy after downing Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the consolation match, 77-67.

Michael Achas led McDonald's with his 20 points.

First Game

McDonald's 77—Mi. Achas 20, Gapor 18, J. Achas 17, Mc. Achas 14, L. Achas 4, C. Achas 3, Gaspar 1.

CUC 67—Manglona 34, Santos 11, Simada 8, Benavente 4, Poquiz 3, Lieto 3, Masga 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-27, 43-38, 57-54, 77-67.

Second Game

Joeten 84— Kwon 31, Lauron 24, Sambile 11, Quan 10, Taisague 6, Benghit 2.

Tan Holdings 82—Esdrelon 25, Nonato 15, Duenas 13, Kim 13, Quizon 6, Matsutaro 6, Rivera 4.

Scoring by quarters: 34-9, 51-43, 67-64, 84-82.

PIAMONTE

From Page 32

Piamonte after shooting a 38 in the last nine holes.

However, Piamonte grabbed the upper hand in the end after registering the second best net (behind Ernie Lopez's 68) in the two-day tournament with his 69 and 141 total, while Tenorio settled for second place with his two-day tally of 143. Tenorio had a 71 in the second round after carding a 46 on the front and 44 on the back for a gross 90. He had a 19 handicap in the final round.

Eric Mandell, who recorded nets 74 and 70, rounded out the Top 3 with his 144. Siruelo faltered on his bid to win the 2015 club championship after scoring a net 79 in the second round. The Day 1 leader and 19 handicapper logged a 50 and 48 on the front and back nines, respectively.

With Piamonte prevailing in the weekend tournament, he duplicated Adony Matutito's feat in the FilTaga Golfers Association. Matutino topped the 2010 and 2012 editions of the annual tournament. Larry Pascual ruled the inaugural event in 2009, while other winners were Manny Po (2013) and Freddie Cataluna (2014).

CNMI

From Page 32

National Training Center in Dededo.

The visiting group first squared off against Bud Light Women's Soccer League Fall Season champion Quality Distributors FC last Friday and dropped a close match, 1-2. Jeralyn Castillo scored the lone goal for the Commonwealth, while April Talledo nailed the brace for the winning team.

Up next for the CNMI bets were the Women's GFA Cup 2015 champions Personal Finance Center Lady Crushers, which eked out a tough 3-2 win. Gillian Villagomez stood up for the Commonwealth, while the Crushers got the three goals from Kimberly Sherman, Koharu Minato, and Talledo.

For their penultimate match, the Commonwealth players were pitted against the Lady Rovers, who handed the visiting team a 3-1 defeat. Sarah Allen registered the CNMI's lone goal, while Anjelica Perez, Courtney Salgado, and Kelly Hogan-Morphy hit the board for the Lady Rovers.

The CNMI training pool's U14 players then closed out for the visiting squad last Monday, challenging their Guam counterparts and holding their ground on defense in the second half for a 1-1 draw. The Commonwealth scored first off Jerlyn Castillo's goal before Jinae Teria made the equalizer for the host.

"We may have lost three matches and got one draw, but I believe we showed some potential out there. We were able to respond to the challenge and develop some chemistry," Race said.

Katrina Costales, one of the U14 players on the pool, said the training matches in Guam gave them a perspective on what they should do to keep up with Guam's level of play.

"As a player, I learned what areas in my game/skills I need to improve on to be able to reach their level of play. The training matches help me understand that I have to work harder every game to help my team become a better squad," Costales said.

"The experience was really worth the trip as the competition was tough since other than the youth team, most Guam players are bigger and playing in adult leagues, while only about 6 of our players are over 15. Guam was an excellent host and the friendly matches also drew some spectators," said Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta, who joined the group in Guam.

Iakopo makes comeback, wants to promote rugby

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Stanley Iakopo admits that he had a colorful past before leaving Saipan in 2008. That included run-ins with the law and outbursts that either resulted in fights or arguments with a number of people.

More than six years had passed, the once impulsive CNMI athlete is making a comeback but has mellowed down hoping to give back to the sports community that he was once part of.

"I admit and recognize that it had been part of my life and I own up to it. You can't forget about that, but your past doesn't define you. I don't want to be like that anymore," said Iakopo, who literally had a change of heart after receiving a cow valve in his second open-heart surgery.

"Even my family was against him. They don't approve of our relationship. But I stuck with him and believed that someday he will change," said Iakopo's wife, the former Priscilla Flores Maratita, who has a business administration degree and earned her master's at University of Phoenix.

Stanley and Priscilla have always been thankful to God for the second chance he received.

"God has his own way. He made a way for me to realize my mistakes. Now it all makes sense to me why He had put me in those kinds of humiliating situations and why I went through all of that," added Iakopo, an active U.S. Air Force Reservist under the 944th Fighter Wing.

The former CNMI sprinter, who represented the Commonwealth to the 1997 Pacific Mini Games in American Samoa, nearly died after collapsing during a routine physical training in 2009. He was rushed to the hospital and a heart stress was done that later showed his mitral valve had calcified.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Stanley Iakopo, top, did MMA during his earlier stint in the US Air Force Reserve.

Iakopo, who was experiencing tiredness and shortness of breath, was also spitting blood during his PT. But before being diagnosed with the condition, he passed all his fitness tests.

"I was in Washington doing the fitness test. I was in the final lap when I passed out but I managed to grab the shoulder of the trainer before I collapsed. The front of my shirt was covered in blood. I was spitting blood because of the malfunctioning valve," said Iakopo, who was then suffering from mitral valve stenosis.

According to the Mayo Clinic's Web Site, a mitral valve stenosis or mitral stenosis is the narrowing of the heart's mitral valve. This abnormal valve doesn't open properly, blocking blood flow into the main pumping chamber of the heart (left ventricle). Mitral valve stenosis can make you tired and have shortness of breath, among other problems.

The main cause of mitral valve stenosis is an infection called rheumatic fever, which is related to strep infections. Rheumatic fever— now rare in the United States, but still common in developing countries—can scar the mitral valve. Left untreated, mitral valve stenosis can lead to serious heart complications.

He had an open-heart surgery to clean the valve and it took him seven months to recover with Priscilla beside him every step of the way.

"I've always supported him, through thick and thin I was there. I was always beside him. I forced him to go walk and exercise slowly. I even threw away his pain medicines because I don't want him to rely on those pills. When he's sleeping, I always talk to him, reminding him of our kids and his love of sports," said Priscilla.

Iakopo said the love and support of his family helped his fast recovery. He recovered and thought he was already healed of his heart problem but that wasn't the end of it.

"From 2009 to 2011, I was okay. But one night, while we were just watching at home, I felt that my heart rate went fast. I was again rushed to the emergency room where they found out that I had tachycardia, a condition where you experienced an abnormally rapid heart rate. Every time I experienced that, I had to be rushed to the ER to reset my heart and get it back to normal," said Iakopo.

Iakopo's wife said seeing his husband unconscious and trying to get his heart rate back to normal has always been a tense and grueling experience. "I don't know if he's coming back. I just closed my eyes and prayed to God to give my husband back. Back to me and his kids," added a teary-eyed Priscilla.

Iakopo was in and out of the ER 15 times in a span of two years and he received a procedure called cardioversion, where a patient is placed under anesthesia and doctors deliver an electrical shock to reset the heart rate to normal.

And that was when his heart surgeon suggested another open-heart surgery, giving him several options to replace the valve. His doctor suggested to either use a mechanical cadaver or bovine as a replacement valve.

"I let him explain the pros and cons before we made a decision. He told me if we used a mechanical valve, I will retire from military service and could only play golf. I want to still serve my country so we scratched that out. With the cadaver valve, I might reject it if it won't match with my tissue. That's when the doctor told me about the bovine valve, which is similar to a human tissue. We went with the cow valve," said Iakopo, whose valve came from a bull.

"Now, I can still enjoy playing sports, particularly rugby, which I plan to introduce here in the CNMI. I can still play with my kids, enjoy life, and remain in the military," added Iakopo, a speech language pathology graduate at University of Hawaii and received his master's degree in education from Framingham State University in Massachusetts.

Greg Sablan nabs SGA January Ace

JON PEREZ
Greg Sablan Jr., center, poses with fellow SGA members John "Nanni" Cruz, left, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan during the awards presentation for the SGA Ace of Aces at Capital Hill last Sunday.

Gregorio Sablan Jr. opened up 2016 on a winning note after topping the Saipan Golfers Association's January Ace of the Month held last Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Sablan finished with a gross score of 91 after rounds of 51 and 40, and his 18 handicap gave him a 73 net for a one-shot win over Jess Castro (74).

Sablan had a horrible start as he triple-bogeyed the par-4 Nos. 4, 6 and 9 to finish with a 51 on the front nine. He rebounded with a 40 on the back, highlighted by three straight even-pars for that 91.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan finished with the third best net score of 76, while Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Juan L. Babauta, Jung Eun Teack and Nick Sablan ended up tied for fourth to sixth places with 77s, and John "Nanni" Cruz placed seventh with a 78.

Sunday's January Ace of the Month was also SGA's final day of their yearend tournament for 2015 with Sablan clinching the crown to repeat as champion.

Sablan, who qualified in the Ace of Aces for winning the October monthly crown, now joins other two-time champions Jung (2001, 2013) and Jose S. Demapan (2005, 2008) but is the first back-to-back title holder.

Meanwhile, Manibusan and Babauta claimed the closest to the pin special award at Nos. 3 and 7, while Steve Balakrishna and James Nelson duplicated the feat at Nos. 13 and 17.

Manibusan was also the longest drive winner at No. 2, while Jess Castro claimed the same award at No. 12. ***(Jon Perez)***

NMIVA lines up several events until April

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will be busy for the next three months with several beach volleyball events starting with this year's Marianas Cup.

It will be Saipan's turn to host the annual tournament, where Beijing Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser and American pro Paul Baxter used to play, after the competition was held in Guam last year.

The Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival is set from April 1 to 3 with the Marianas Junior Cup to be held in Guam the week after on April 8 and 9. The Saipan Kids Cup will happen simultaneously with the Junior Cup.

Last year, Saipan's Tyler Willsey and Japanese pro Takahasi Tsuchiya ruled the Pro-Am event at Ypao Beach in Guam after a 21-19 win over Russ Quinn and Kosuke Sato in the finals , while hometown bet Tatiana Sablan and Anna Vidal clinched the women's crown with a 21-17 triumph over the Japanese pair of Nozomi Yanagi and Anna Miyakawa.

Saipan-born Misaki Cramer and Andrew Johnson downed T.J. Eina and Nak Nakashima in the finals, 21-17, while Zena Demapan and Phalai Frink defeated Nicole Arenovski and Adele Hudkins, 21-11 to rule their respective divisions in last year's Marianas Junior Cup Under-19 Beach Volleyball Festival held at the Fiesta Resort's beach side.

But before NMIVA gets busy in organizing the Marianas Cup, it will first hold a two-on-two tournament for men's and women's dubbed For The Love of Volleyball on Valentine's weekend on Feb. 13 and 14 at the Hyatt sand courts.

NMIVA will also conduct tryouts for the two men's and women's teams that would don the CNMI national colors in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

NMIVA is fresh from organizing the 9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass volleyball tournament last Jan. 16 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Team Sloth 'N' Slugs 'N' Harmony bested 22 other squads to clinch the crown. The four-year partnership of Tyler Willsey and Christen Steinkuller proved to be the key factor as they ended the Cinderella bid of the Bumpin Uglies' Toni Yamada and Alfredo Guevarra in the finals, 21-14.

Willsey and Steinkuller went undefeated in the one-day, double elimination round tournament to earn the first finals berth and the twice-to-beat edge that goes with it.

Tournament organizers Tyce Mister and Kathy Winkfield would like to thank their sponsors and partners Gold's Gym Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Shenanigan's Restaurant, Swirls, Wild Bill's Restaurant & Bar, Tropical Blendz, Elliott Systems, LLC, and NMIVA. "I'm really happy with the event. I liked the venue change and grateful for the gorgeous weather. I think everyone had a fantastic time. The volunteers were awesome and really appreciated," said Mister.

JON PEREZ
Toni Yamada eyes the ball as she prepares to set up teammate Alfredo Guevarra during last week's 9th Annual Reverse Coed Grass volleyball tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Love helps Cavaliers bounce back in romp

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Iakopo makes comeback, wants to promote rugby

PAGE 31

Kwon wins Game 2 thriller for Joeten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dixon Kwon isn't the regular season MVP for nothing.

The lefty wingman scored Joeten's last 6 points, including the go-ahead basket to power his team to a thrilling 84-82 Game 2 win against Tan Holdings in their title series in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the short best-of-three finals tied, 1-1, Joeten and Tan Holdings go for all the marbles tonight when they collide in the deciding Game 3 that will start at 6:30pm.

Kwon, who was awarded with the regular season MVP trophy before Game 2, made the dagger after Tan Holdings forced the last deadlock in the game, 82-all, off R.J. Nonato's split free throw. Nonato's first charity rolled back into the net, while his second was a bit short. Sid Quan then collared the rebound and saw Kwon sprinting to their frontcourt. Kwon got Quan's pass and without hesitation and with the clock down to the last 11 seconds, the former banked in a running shot that gave Joeten the shaky 2-point advantage.

Tan Holdings sued for time after Quan's clutch basket with 9.1 seconds remaining in the exciting game. When the match resumed, Adonis Macoto did the inbound from the right sideline and Joeten anticipated that Elmer Esdrelon will get the pass so Kwon, Jason Sablan, and Athan Taisague were all over the Tan Holdings captain. Hounded, Esdrelon decided to dribble toward the top of the key, but lost his footing a bit and nearly squandered the possession. He kept the ball, but was trapped by two Joeten defenders near the midcourt side and was forced to kick the ball out to Nonato. Time pressured, Nonato turned around for a long jumper in front of Tan Holdings' bench and overshot the mark. Juanito Sambile got the rebound and threw the ball to their frontcourt as time expired with Joeten living for another day and avoiding a monumental collapse.

Joeten had to rely on Kwon's heroics in the homestretch af-

See KWON on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Joeten's Dixon Kwon pulls up for an and-1 shot against Tan Holdings' Paul Quizon during the fourth quarter of Game 2 of their finals series in the JP World caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CNMI training matches in Guam worth the trip

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI training pool's trip to Guam was worth it, as the group got what it wanted from the series of matches it played in four days.

"It was a great learning experience for our group. We were able to play against players whose skill level is high. There's not much of competition here on Saipan and the teams that we faced in Guam gave us the tough matches we need in preparation for upcoming off-island tournaments this year," said Gabrielle Race, who was designated captain of the 25-player CNMI training pool that suited up in four matches against club teams in Guam and the host's own U14 training crew at the Guam Football Association

See CNMI on Page 30

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Gillian Villagomez, right, receives a pass during their training match against Guam last Monday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FilTaga Golfers Association members pose for a group photo during the first round of the club championship last weekend at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Piamonte takes second FilTaga title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Raffy Piamonte earned his second club championship after ruling the 2015 FilTaga Golfer of the Year Tournament held last weekend at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Marianas Country Club.

Piamonte, who won his first FilTaga Golfer of the Year award in 2011, secured the 2015 crown after posting a net 69 in the second and final round of the season-ending tournament at MCC. The 20-handicapper had a gross 89 built around his 43 on the front nine and 46 on the back.

Earlier in the first round of play at Kingfisher, Piamonte, who qualified in the yearly tournament for topping the February contest, was tied for second with Norman Tenorio behind September Ace Nestor Siruelo. Piamonte, who listed a 21 handicap at Kingfisher, had a 46 and 47 for a gross 93 and net 72. Tenorio after deducting his 20 handicap in the opening round also tallied a net 72 and gross 92 (43 and 49). Siruelo, on the other hand, took the lead in Round 1 with his net 68. The 20-handicapper fired a 50 on the front nine, but managed to take a 4-shot lead against Tenorio and

See PIAMONTE on Page 30